

Jordan Times

An independent daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورديان تايمز مؤسسة صحفية عن المؤسسة الأردنية للصحافة

Levy: U.S. wants to dictate terms

TEL AVIV (AP) — Foreign Minister David Levy Friday suggested the United States was trying to dictate Middle East peace policies to Israel, adding "we will not crawl on our knees" to reach agreement with Washington. Levy's remarks appeared in the Hebrew daily Yediot Aharonot, a day after Israel's right-wing government announced acceptance of some Middle East peace proposals by Secretary of State James Baker (see story below). Levy, who said about Israel's persistent differences with the United States over Middle East peace moves, said "There is a debate and the debate is legitimate." He accused the United States of supporting the PLO and the formation of a Palestinian state, and added, "We really want a friendship with the U.S. but we will not overlook the potential dangers we face." "We will not be good children and will not agree to let them dictate to us what to do with our lives and what we are small and dependent," he added that the United States "is not developing an openness for basic understanding between us. We are trying but we will not ingratiate ourselves with the U.S. and we will not crawl on our knees."

ATF forms committees

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Thought Forum (ATF) Friday formed an 18-member information committee entrusted with following up on ATF activities, promoting the forum's objectives and working out forums of cooperation with other youth organizations. The information committee comprises: Shihadeh Abu Al Bakar, Saja Majall, Hussam Ayesh, Sa'd Tawhnee, Nabil Abu Obeld, Saqar Abu Shtal, Omar Al Omari, Sandra Khouat, Tamara Shukri, Wafaa Alkateh, Abner Hajar, Atallah Al Hameid, Najmaddin Al Tawabeh, Mohammad Tarawneh, Mawlood Raghafat, Amer Samad, Mohammed Al Bashir and Rana Al Fakhour. It was agreed during Friday's meeting, which was chaired by Abdullah Kanatan, representative of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Chairman of the ATF board, that membership of this committee will be open to other ATF members. In Irbid, Kanatan, chaired another meeting Thursday, during which a decision was taken to form a preparatory committee which will be charged with receiving ATF membership applications from Irbid governorate residents and setting up new branches in the governorate. The committee will function from Yarmouk University premises until a new premises is provided.

Volume 15 Number 4429

AMMAN SATURDAY, JUNE 30, 1990, DHUL HIJJEH 8, 1410

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Kurdish rebels claim attacks on Iranians

BAGHDAD (AP) — An Iraqi-based Iranian-Kurdish opposition group claimed Friday that at least 15 Iranian troops were killed by its guerrillas inside Iran in the past week. Ghasfour Hanzai, a spokesman for the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran, said at least 15 Iranian soldiers were killed in a clash June 21 near Kourgh Sagar, an Iranian town in the Kurdish mountains of Iran near the Iraqi border. He added that in another clash near the town of Sardasht on June 25 Kurdish guerrillas killed "several" Iranian troops, including their commander Ali Pour Kawiassi, and took five other soldiers prisoner.

U.N. chief to meet Velayati, Aziz

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar will visit Geneva next week and hold talks with Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministers, U.N. officials announced. Francois Giuliani, the secretary-general's spokesman, said the U.N. chief would leave over the weekend for Geneva where he would meet Monday night with Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and Tuesday with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz. The talks are aimed at finding ways to get the stalemate Iran-Iraq peace talks moving, achieve a permanent ceasefire, prisoner exchange and troop withdrawal.

Gunmen assassinate top Kashmir judge

SRINAGAR (R) — Kashmiri militants on Friday shot dead the highest-ranking judge in Srinagar, summer capital of India's Jammu and Kashmir state, police said. Witnesses told Reuters they heard gunshots and then saw two armed men racing out of the house of Abdul Aziz Khan. Police said the judge, hit in his back and abdomen, was rushed to a hospital where he died. They blamed militants fighting Indian rule in Kashmir for the murder.

Son of ex-Libyan premier killed

ROME (AP) — Libya's ambassador to Italy Friday ruled out any political motive to the killing of a son of former Libyan Prime Minister Mohammed Othman Assed. Ambassador Abdul Rahman Shalgam confirmed that Abdul Salam Assed, 40, was shot to death June 20 in Tajura, a suburb of Tripoli. His father served as prime minister under King Idris I from 1960 to 1963. He went into exile with his family in Morocco in 1969 after the king was overthrown in a coup led by Muammar Qadhafi. The son had been working for an oil company in Libya for the past two years. The ambassador, speaking to the Associated Press, said Abdul Salam Assed was apparently killed over financial dealings and that there was no political connection. He said Assed was carrying the equivalent of \$130,000 in Libyan dinars, which were taken from him.

Bhutto cautious on talks with India

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said no miracles should be expected from talks with India scheduled for next month to defuse military tension over a Muslim revolt in Kashmir. The two countries announced Thursday that their foreign ministers would meet in Islamabad on July 18 and 19. Both governments moved troops closer to their common border in April after India accused Pakistan of arming and training militants fighting for secession of Jammu and Kashmir state from India. "We would not expect any miracles from this first exchange," Bhutto told reporters in Pakistan's Baluchistan province. "We should approach it cautiously." Two of the three wars between India and Pakistan since they gained independence from Britain in 1947 have been fought over Kashmir, of which one-third is under Pakistan's control and two-thirds under Indian rule.

Parliament lauds EC declaration, calls for action

AMMAN (J.T.) — The foreign affairs committees of the Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament Friday welcomed a declaration by the European Community (EC) condemning Israeli policies and offering increased aid to the Palestinians living in the occupied territories. "The foreign affairs committees of the Upper and Lower Houses warmly welcome the EC statement on the situation in the occupied Arab territories and see it as the first-ever firm, clear and brave stand of the EC in the face of Israeli practices against the Palestinian people and the first objective move (of the EC) improving its 1980 Venice Declaration," a joint communiqué issued by parliament said. The communiqué described the EC decision to increase aid to the Palestinians as an "example to be followed by other countries."

The communiqué said: "The EC statement came at a time when the United States continued to insist on allowing Israel to endanger the Middle East region's security and stability and continues to encourage and support Israel's endeavours and

plans while suspending its dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the sole legitimate, representative of the Palestinian people. This is considered totally biased in favour of the Shamir government and an open backing for its declared terrorist policies. "The foreign affairs committees welcome the EC decision to appoint a representative in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories and to increase its humanitarian and financial aid to the population of the Arab territories. We hope that this move will soon be implemented and serve as a model to the other nations and organisations as well as an incentive to the U.N. Security Council to insist on dispatching representatives to the occupied Arab lands despite the American veto. We hope that the United States will take lesson from the courageous EC stand and follow suit. "The future is for the Arab Nation, which through its geographic, demographic and natural wealth and vast potentials, will know how to deal with its friends and enemies in the future. "The significance of this Euro-

pean stand lies in the fact that it comes at a time when an extremist government is in power in Israel which rejects all peace initiatives, even those coming from its closest allies. This government also openly declares its intention of creating a 'greater Israel' and settle Soviet Jewish immigrants in all the Arab territories occupied since 1967." Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem has welcomed the EC statement and said it was the continuation of the European stand on the situation in the Middle East. Qasem said the European stand differed from the U.S. stand since the EC summit of Venice in 1980 and pointed out that the latest statement had asked for international protection for citizens living under Israeli occupation, condemned settlement in the occupied territories and Israel's violations of human rights. Qasem expressed hope that the U.S. would revise its position towards suspending dialogue with

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Bush vows to bring about Israeli-Palestinian talks

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush vowed Friday to make negotiations between Israel and Palestinians happen, saying they were vital to break an unacceptable deadlock in Middle East peace efforts.

Declining to comment in detail on a letter from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, which arrived in Washington Thursday, Bush told a White House conference:

"There has got to be discussion with Palestinians. That has to happen and we will push and find ways to make it happen if we can. We're halfway across the world. But we are not going to give up on that kind of solution to this problem." U.S. Secretary of State James Baker worked for a year to get talks going between Israel and Palestinians on elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Shamir's previous coalition with the Labour Party collapsed last March when the hardline Israeli leader hauled at some of Baker's proposals. His new government is the most right-wing Israel has ever had. But officials said Shamir's letter to Bush did not specifically rule out key parts of the Baker plan, which envisaged Palestinians from Arab Jerusalem and one or two expelled by Israel from the occupied territories in the delegation.

"We'll be analysing the Shamir letter very, very carefully and hopefully we will then go back

and find some material in the response that permits us to get these talks going again. It is essential. The status quo is unacceptable to everybody," Bush said. "But if we get totally stiff-armed on the Baker approach or what was the Shamir plan... then we get back to the drawing board because we're not going to sit here and do nothing."

Bush is known to have a poor relationship with Shamir and is still unhappy with Israel's position on Soviet Jewish immigrants being settled in the occupied territories. A senior U.S. official said Thursday the United States was still not ready to give Israel loan guarantees worth \$400 million to build housing for the newcomers.

In recent weeks, relations between the two countries have taken on a shrill tone with Baker challenging the Israelis to call the White House if they were serious about peace. The senior official said Washington would try to find out quickly whether there were grounds for further negotiations with Israel but would not get involved in another long series of diplomatic exchanges. "This is not Talmud class," he said, referring to the lengthy and complicated discussions that take place over the collected writings constituting Jewish civil and religious law. Meanwhile, diplomatic sources said the possibility was being discussed of Baker balking his

first meeting with Israel's new foreign minister, David Levy, during one of his trips to Europe. At least one Israeli official said Shamir, in his letter to Bush, had rejected key elements of the U.S. plan but Friday the premier's spokesman Avi Pazner denied the report, published by Reuters, Israel Radio and the country's highest-selling newspapers. The official had quoted Shamir as telling Bush:

"As you know Mr. President, we are opposed to the participation of deportees in the Palestinian delegation and also the participation of the East Jerusalem Arabs." The prime minister told journalists the report was the "interpretation of people who know something of the letter's contents." But Pazner denied them completely. "This story is erroneous and does not reflect the content and spirit of the message sent by Mr. Shamir and the quote of the letter is completely incorrect," he told Reuters.

He would not reveal what the letter did say. "It wouldn't be fair to make public a private confidence from Mr. Shamir to President Bush," he said. Foreign Minister Levy Tuesday restated government policy. "Yes" to Baker on the peace initiative, "no" to Baker on the question of deportees who are picked by the PLO... Israel will also not agree to the participation of Arabs from Jerusalem," he said.

Soviet party meeting to go ahead

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Communist Party has decided to go ahead with a scheduled congress starting Monday, setting the stage for a titanic clash between hardliners and reformers.

A plenary session of the party's policy-making Central Committee voted Friday to hold the 28th congress as planned, overriding a bid by liberals to postpone the session.

They had wanted the congress delayed because they feared it would be hijacked by conservatives opposed to sweeping reforms of the party structure. Party official Rudolf Yanovsky told Reuters as he left the Kremlin session that the congress would start Monday as planned, and would last about 10 days. Yanovsky, a member of the party's central auditing commission, said president and party chief Mikhail Gorbachev addressed the gathering but he gave no details of what was said. The three-and-a-half-hour session also unanimously approved

new rules covering organisational changes to the structure of the party's leadership. Yanovsky said. The independent news service Interfax described the plenum as "calm".

Criticism of Gorbachev's performance as Soviet party chief at a founding congress of the Russian Communist Party last week has raised the prospect of conservatives presenting a rival candidate for his party post. At the last congress in 1986, Gorbachev gave impetus to his programme of "perestroika" or restructuring.

Next week's gathering has been called at a time when party authority in the Soviet Union, unchallenged for six decades, is at its lowest ebb. It has relinquished its exclusive right to a leading role in Soviet society and thousands of disenfranchised citizens are turning in their party cards. The collapse of once iron-clad party discipline has also left many republican

parties in an uproar. Some radicals, including the Democratic Platform group, have said that if the congress goes ahead and no major reforms take place they will break away and form a separate party.

Soviet ideology chief Vadim Medvedev said Wednesday that the prevailing view among leaders in the constituent republics and regions was that the congress should go ahead as planned. Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin, a radical critic of Gorbachev, predicted earlier that the plenary session would turn into a "real battle" between conservative hardliners and radicals.

Leading radical Vladimir Lyzenko told the newspaper Rabochaya Tribuna that if the congress took a similar line to the conservative tone of last week's founding meeting of the Russian Communist Party "then the majority of democratically inclined intellectuals and progressive workers will leave the Soviet Communist Party."

Israelis deny entry to wives of Palestinians despite pledge

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

(Agencies) — Four Palestinians accused Israel Friday of preventing their wives from entering the West Bank despite a promise that the families of residents would be allowed an indefinite stay. Jamil Barghouti from the West Bank village of Beit Rima, said Israeli officers at the King Hussein bridge turned his wife back as she tried to cross Wednesday.

"They held her at the bridge for six hours and then one officer ripped off her entry permit and told her she was not welcome," Barghouti told the Arab Jerusalem Al Fajr daily.

Military authorities on June 6 said they would reverse longstanding policy and allow non-resident wives of West Bank residents to stay in the area indefinitely.

The statement followed an appeal by 15 residents to the Israeli high court for visas to let their wives and children into the area.

An Israeli official said he knew nothing about the four families but said entry restrictions on wives and children of West Bank residents had been eased.

He said he would check the report and a story in the Israeli weekly Kol Hair that three other West Bank residents were refused permits to bring their wives from the East Bank.

Barghouti said the military authorities had informed him on June 18 that his wife's visa was issued by mistake and that she could not enter the area.

He said he contacted parliamentarians and human rights groups to pressure authorities to allow his family to join him.

Military authorities last year expelled 100 women married in the West Bank and 150 children for overstaying their visas.

The families said they were forced to stay without permits after occupation authorities rejected their requests for family reunification.

In the northern West Bank town of Jenin, soldiers entered clothing stores Friday and confiscated T-shirts with "Black Sunday" emblazoned on the front, Palestinian sources said.

The shirts bore mock bullet wounds, each representing one of the victims of the Rishon LeZion murders. A delegation of 14 Israeli-Arab members of parliament and mayors of Israeli-Arab towns visited the Gaza Strip Friday, Palestinian sources said.

It was the largest such delegation to the region since the outbreak of the uprising, they said. "All the... Palestinian leaders from inside the green line and the Palestinian leaders in Gaza are working as one body to establish the Palestinian independent state," Ibrahim Nimer Hussein, head of the Association of Israeli-Arab Municipalities, told an audience in Gaza City.

Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens will release a few hundred Palestinian detainees, a ministry spokesman said Friday.

In the West Bank city of Nablus soldiers sprayed obscene slogans in Arabic on a mosque door after finding a spray-paint cache used by activists, residents said Thursday.

The slogans were derogatory to Islam and God, the Jerusalem Post newspaper reported.

The army said it was checking reports of the incident. Armed Israeli soldiers forced their way into the operating room of a Nablus hospital Thursday looking for a Palestinian youth wounded during clashes, Israeli radio said Friday.

Ayman Killab, 14, suffering from a gunshot wound to the leg, was in the operating room, Al Itihad hospital officials told Reuters. They said soldiers pushed and cursed operating room personnel and wanted to arrest Killab directly after surgery.

Killab's arrest was delayed only because of the presence of Red Cross

and U.N. relief workers, hospital officials said.

Following a military investigation, a soldier was sentenced to 14 days in prison for throwing a bottle of urine at a Gaza lawyer, Fatma Al Najjar, military sources said Friday.

The lawyer had gone to an Israeli military base to ask for the release of her seven-year-old son who had been arrested for throwing stones. The source said a guard threw "an unidentified liquid" on the woman when she refused to leave the base.

Israel will pay \$20,000 to each of the families of seven Palestinians from the occupied territories killed last month by an Israeli impersonating a soldier, a defence ministry spokesman said Friday.

The spokesman stressed that Israel was not obligated to make the payments by law, but was compensating the families because of the "unique circumstances" of the killings.

"It is the first time that Israel has paid money to Arab residents injured by Israeli terrorist acts," Israel's daily Haaretz newspaper wrote Friday.

The gunman shot down the Palestinians May 20 while they waited for work as day labourers on a street in the town of Rishon LeZion, near Tel Aviv.

Eighteen Palestinians were killed and more than 900 were wounded in subsequent clashes between soldiers and Palestinians.

Saud, Ibrahimi in Syria on Lebanon-peace mission

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal, arrived Friday for talks with Damascus leaders on developments in Lebanon.

The visit comes two days after Lebanese President Elias Hrawi toured oil-rich Gulf states seeking financial assistance to reconstruct his war-ravaged country.

Saud, accompanied by Arab League undersecretary Lakhdar Ibrahimi, was greeted at Damascus international airport by Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa. Saud and Ibrahimi are members of an Arab League committee on Lebanon.

"The two envoys will brief the Syrians on the results of the talks in Rome and Paris concerning finding a solution to

Michel Aoun's rebellion against the legitimate authority of President Hrawi," said one Arab diplomat.

The diplomat said Saud and Ibrahimi will also discuss with the Syrians "the issue of creating an international fund for reconstruction in Lebanon."

The Arab League committee recently appealed for world contributions to a \$2-billion fund to help reconstruct Lebanon.

Some Arab governments said they will not contribute to the fund until they are sure it can be invested in a stable Lebanon.

Renegade General Aoun has repeatedly denounced a committee-backed peace accord for Lebanon reached by Muslim and Christian Legislators in Taif, Saudi Arabia, in October 1989.

De Maiziere predicts unification this year

WEST BERLIN (Agencies) — East Germany's prime minister predicted in a published interview Friday that full unification would be achieved by the end of the year, giving the same timetable as West German officials.

Lothar de Maiziere, the country's first democratically elected leader, also added that a "compromise" must be found to eliminate Soviet objections to North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) membership for a unified Germany.

In Bonn, the West German government announced agreement with the Kremlin on financing the costs of the 380,000 Soviet troops stationed in East Germany.

The Finance Ministry said the East German government will hand over 1.25 billion West German Marks (\$780 million) for the last six months of this year, and receive in return 255 million "transfer rubles."

Some of the West German marks will come from a fund set up by the Bonn government to finance the unification process.

A finance ministry spokesman said the transfer rubles allow for the purchase of Soviet goods, especially oil and natural gas.

The spokesman in Bonn, who requested anonymity, said the value of Soviet goods could reach nearly the amount of hard cash paid by the East Germans.

By comparison, the Soviets received 1.4 billion East German marks for the first half of this year. At the official exchange rate into hard currency, that was far less than the new sum.

However, officials caution that precise comparisons are difficult due to the complicated exchange procedures in the Soviet bloc. Chancellor Helmut Kohl will visit Moscow next month to try to

persuade Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to remove a major obstacle to German unification — his objection to its membership of NATO.

Government spokesman Dieter Vogel announced Friday that Kohl will visit Moscow on July 15 and 16 with Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and Finance Minister Theo Waigel.

Waigel's inclusion indicated that Bonn may offer Gorbachev generous aid for the beleaguered Soviet economy in return for agreement to let the new Germany join the Western military alliance.

"The chancellor will not be going empty-handed," Vogel told a news conference.

Honecker under murder probe

Meanwhile, the top East German prosecutor has opened a murder probe of former Communist leader Erich Honecker stemming from the deaths of people who tried to flee the country, the state news agency said Friday.

Acting Chief Prosecutor Guenter Seidel also is investigating soldiers suspected of having killed would-be escapees, according to the news agency ADN.

More than 200 East Germans were shot to death or killed by land mines as they tried to escape from East Germany and East Berlin under communist rule.

Bringing those responsible to justice has been one of the most bitterly debated issues in East Germany today.

The 77-year-old Honecker, whose hardline rule was toppled in a peaceful revolt in October, already is the target of other criminal probes, including a West German investigation for alleged harbouring West German terrorists.

Unrest continues in Zambia

LUSAKA (AP) — Troops and paramilitary police shut down the country's leading university after a pre-dawn assault Friday in which they beat many students and ordered thousands to pack their bags.

Witnesses said shots were fired and one student was killed, but the report could not be immediately confirmed.

At least 27 students accused of inciting unrest were dragged from their rooms, beaten and taken into custody, the students said.

Students said three of those detained were known to have shouted anti-government slogans at a protest Thursday to demand the resignation of President Kenneth Kaunda.

Student-led protests against cuts in food price subsidies flared earlier in the week into nationwide rioting against Kaunda's one-party socialist government.

A senior police official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Friday that the main campus of the University of Zambia had been closed indefinitely.

One witness, who identified himself only as Adam, said security forces stormed the campus in suburban Lusaka at about 3 a.m. (0100 GMT).

He said students had barricaded themselves in their rooms, and troops broke down doors and attacked those who defied orders to vacate. Shots were fired and many students fled bleeding from their rooms, he added.

Thousands of students were herded with their belongings onto the main lawn of the campus, where they were surrounded by police and troops in full combat gear, witnesses said. Groups of students were later taken at gunpoint to bus stops, and hundreds of others were allowed to leave the campus.

Elsewhere in Lusaka, capital of this south-central African nation, residents returned to work and schools reopened Friday.

The unrest began after the government cut subsidies for corn meal, doubling the price. Corn meal is a staple in the diet of Zambians.

The increase in the price of corn meal was announced as part of an economic reform programme aimed at reducing government subsidies and making the economy of Zambia, one of Africa's poorest nations, more commercially viable.

The programme was recommended by financial agencies and donor nations. Kaunda said the economic reform programme would continue despite the unrest.

Rafsanjani praises foreign aid

TEHRAN (AP) — President Hashemi Rafsanjani said Friday that Iran should be thankful for foreign aid for earthquake victims, even in limited quantities, and admonished engineers to build better structures to be ready for the next one.

Speaking at the weekly mass prayers at Tehran University, Rafsanjani rehashed an editorial last week in the newspaper Jomhuri Islami that said people buried under earthquake rubble would still chant "death to America" and refuse aid from Iran's enemies.

"I don't think we see the people who are under the debris saying, 'no we don't want foreign aid,'" the president said, without referring specifically to the newspaper. "The response and activities of the foreigners were really good and acceptable."

The official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said three aftershocks were felt Thursday night, with one measuring 5 on the Richter Scale rolling through the capital.

The Iranian Red Crescent has put the casualties at 40,000 dead and 60,000 injured from the June 21 quake, which measured from 7.3 to 7.7 on the Richter Scale.

Rafsanjani noted that the amount of aid from foreign sources, about 2,000 tonnes, was far less than what came from inside Iran.

"We can't claim to demand much," he said. "We should be thankful to those foreigners."

He said the aid from abroad proved that Iran had a successful foreign policy, and gave special mention to aid from neighbouring Soviet Azerbaijan, which has strong ethnic links to Iran.

The aid—especially shipments from the United States, Saudi Arabia and Iraq—sharpened a longstanding internal fight within Iran about its foreign affairs.

The anti-Western faction led by parliament member Ali Akbar Mohtashemi opposed any form of foreign assistance to the Islamic republic. Rafsanjani has sought to open Iran to more foreign investment as a means of gaining technology to rebuild the sagging economy.

Western diplomats in Iran believe the quake aid will provide Rafsanjani with the lever to gra-

dually introduce more Western investment in Iran.

By referring to the aid as a means of helping the victims of a natural disaster, he will be able to undermine critics by saying they were trying to prolong the suffering of the victims.

That response has already started in pro-government newspapers in Tehran, and Rafsanjani reinforced it in his sermon. "There is an opposition to foreign aid," said the president. "If they criticise it (aid) they should see all aspects of the affair. There should be constructive criticism."

It was difficult to criticise such aid with hundreds of thousands of homeless, the president said.

"We have to arrange homes for them. We have to provide everything for them," he said.

The president praised the relief efforts as good and noted the people were generous in their donations despite the hard conditions prevailing in the country due to the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

Rafsanjani said an accurate figure of the losses in both personal and government property had yet to be compiled.

He also said Iran should be better prepared for future earthquakes.

"A quake is a natural phenomenon and of course everything is done by God," the president said. "But that does not mean we should confine ourselves to prayers alone."

He pointed out that dams had proved successful in protecting Iran from devastating floods and the same could be done for earthquakes.

"Many buildings were destroyed which were not built according to specific, scientific plans in this respect," the president said. "In the future, engineers and masons should keep these factors in mind."

Rafsanjani pointed out that losses in California, where a major earthquake struck last October, were much reduced by such preparations.

The Oct. 17 earthquake in the San Francisco bay area killed 68 people, including 42 when a section of freeway collapsed in Oakland during the afternoon rush hour. The quake measured 7.1 on the Richter Scale and caused an estimated \$5.6 billion in damage.

In a related development, Iran's leading opposition group sent a telex to the Associated Press office in Nicosia, Cyprus calling for international supervision of the aid "to ensure it reaches quake victims and is not plundered by the mullahs' regime."

The statement was made by Massoud Rajavi, head of the Iraqi-based Mujahideen Khalq, or people's holy warriors.

Iran thanks for earthquake aid

Iran's U.N. ambassador Thursday thanked the 86 nations which have contributed earthquake aid and issued an urgent appeal for international assistance to rebuild the devastated region.

"In view of the gravity of the disaster and long-term effects, we need continuity of aid to completion efforts by the people and government and international cooperation to mitigate the impact of the earthquake," said Kamal Kharrazi, Iran's permanent representative.

He delivered a speech to a special session of the General Assembly which unanimously called upon U.N. member states, observers and international organisations to contribute generously to Iranian earthquake relief. About 115 nations sponsored the resolution.

Kharrazi, speaking in English, said about 50,000 people were killed, 100,000 injured and 500,000 left homeless in the quake which devastated two breadbasket provinces on June 21. He said that seven days after the quake, the likelihood of finding survivors was "remote."

"I was truly touched by the extent of sympathy and support extended to victims of the earthquake," he said. It is unusual for an Iranian envoy to deliver a speech in English, preferring the Farsi language.

"There is an urgent and con-

tinued need for international cooperation, not only to alleviate present suffering but also to make the areas as safe as possible in the future," he said.

Because of the high summer temperature, he said, it is urgent to bury the dead, prevent the outbreak of epidemics and provide safe drinking water and sanitation. About 100 teams have been set up to fight disease and to disinfect disaster areas, he said, but more supplies and equipment are required.

The possibility of the outbreak of infectious disease is "slim, but not zero," Kharrazi said.

The earthquake has had a devastating effect on the economy, the Iranian envoy said, because the provinces hardest hit, were widely irrigated agricultural regions. "The region, which had played a crucial role in the economy, can hardly play any role for the next three years," he said.

Resettling more than half a million homeless persons also is a great task and because of the climate, geography and coming winter, substantial housing is required, he said. Construction of 10,000 prefabricated homes is under way, he said.

Meanwhile an Iranian diplomatic official said the United States has missed an opportunity to improve relations with Iran, by giving an insignificantly small amount of earthquake aid.

"The assistance has an effect, nobody can say it doesn't," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. But the U.S. government has missed an opportunity presented by the earthquake, because of the small size of its donation, he said.

"The \$225,000 the United States is giving is like a joke," he said. "It's the amount of one house in California."

He referred to the amount of the first shipment of U.S. aid. The United States on Wednesday announced it was sending another shipment of supplies and equipment, making to total U.S. contribution about \$760,000.

Japan will send emergency supplies worth 205.85 million yen (\$1.32 million) to supplement earlier aid to victims of the Iranian earthquake, the Foreign Ministry said Friday.

Saudi Tornado deal in jeopardy, paper says

LONDON (AP) — Plans by Saudi Arabia to buy an additional 48 Tornado strike-fighters aircraft worth more than £1 billion (\$1.74 billion) from Britain are in doubt, according to a report Friday in the Financial Times.

The newspaper, Britain's leading business daily, quoted unnamed negotiators involved in a wide-ranging arms agreement between the two countries as saying that the deal over the 48 planes appeared to be in jeopardy.

It said the 48 Tornados represent the biggest single equipment item in a 1988 arms agreement between Britain and Saudi Arabia that is worth a total of £10 billion (\$17.4 billion).

But the paper said delivery by Britain of 72 other Tornados to Saudi Arabia under a 1986 package deal involving those 72 planes and other arms that is worth a total of £5.5 billion (\$9.57 billion) is expected to be completed as planned next year.

It reported: "The threatened loss of the further Saudi order (for the 48 Tornados) comes after successive cancellations of Tornado purchases by Jordan, Oman and Malaysia because of financial constraints. Oman and Malaysia said they would seek British aerospace Hawk aircraft instead."

The British Defence Ministry said on June 19 that it had cancelled orders for 33 Tornados for Britain's Royal Air Force as part of a three per cent cut in the nation's defence budget of £21.2 billion (\$36.88 billion) for the year to next March 31. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government cited inflation concerns for the cut.

Shares in the planes and weapons company British Aerospace Plc and other defence-related companies fell on London's stock exchange following the June 19 British announcement.

The Financial Times reported Friday: "If Saudi order (for the 48 Tornados) also falls through as British negotiators fear it could mean Tornado production coming to an end in 1992, several years earlier than was foreseen."

The Tornado is a joint venture between Britain, West Germany and Italy.

British Aerospace makes about 18 per cent of the Tornado aircraft in value terms. The company is responsible for final assembly for both Britain and Saudi Arabia and is the overall prime contractor for the deal with Saudi Arabia.

Demjanjuk lawyer pleads for mercy

TEL AVIV (AP) — Convicted Nazi war criminal John Demjanjuk should not be executed because sufficient doubt exists "to take the fallouts out of this case," his lawyer has told Israel's supreme court in a final plea.

Yoram Sheftel, Demjanjuk's Israeli attorney, ended the longest appeal in Israel's history by asking the panel of five justices to overturn the death sentence.

Sheftel also asked the supreme court not to hand down a decision before Jan. 1 in order to give the defence time to investigate new evidence that might prove Demjanjuk's innocence.

West Bank settlements will be expanded — Israeli politician

TEL AVIV (AP) — A leading right-wing politician said Thursday that Israel intends to expand Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab territories, despite U.S. warnings that this could jeopardise U.S. aid to Israel.

"We will expand settlements whenever and wherever we can," said Gauda Cohen, deputy science minister and a leader of the right-wing Tzohar Party. "We don't have to cave in to U.S. pressure."

Ms. Cohen refused to confirm reports that there was an unwritten agreement between her party and the dominant Likud Bloc specifying construction of 5,000 new units each year in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Hebrew daily Haaretz reported that a pact between Likud and its right-wing coalition partners stipulates that 5,000 new housing units will be constructed each year in existing settlements.

The newspaper said the right-wing parties had agreed to expand existing settlements instead of building new ones as a tactical move to try to avoid U.S. criticism.

The Haaretz report calculated that by the end of the Likud government's term in 2½ years, the number of Jewish settlers in the occupied Arab lands would exceed 120,000. There currently are at least 75,000 Jewish settlers living in 130 settlements in the occupied Arab territories, the

government has said.

Even the current estimate of settlers may be low, Haaretz said. The newspaper said its own survey found 84,000 settlers living in the West Bank and 4,000 in Gaza.

Haaretz also said that 1,050 new housing units are under construction and could house 6,800 more settlers when they are completed this fall.

The territories, which are home to 1.7 million Palestinians, were occupied in the 1967 Middle East war. The United States opposes setting Jewish settlements in the Arab territories, saying it is an obstacle to making peace with the Palestinians.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's spokesman Avi Pazner dismissed the newspaper report as "pure speculation" but said: "It's obvious that nobody has sought to put limits on existing settlements."

The statement came a day after U.S. Congressman David Obey, chairman of the House Appropriations' Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, warned that he would support cutting Israel's annual \$3 billion in foreign aid if it persists in expanding the settlements.

Shamir formed a narrow, right-wing government earlier this month after a coalition with the left-leaning Labour Party collapsed over how to proceed with

Middle East peace efforts.

Likud's partners in the new coalition include three ultra-right nationalist factions — Tzohar, Tsomet and Moledet — that are committed to expanding Jewish settlements in the Arab territories.

Benny Katzover, a West Bank settlement leader, said these were plans for "thickening" existing settlements, but he would not say how many new units might be built.

"Construction is going on all the time, and it will continue," he said. "We are relying on Sharon," he added, referring to Home Minister Ariel Sharon. Sharon is an ardent supporter of the settlement movement, and he created a fresh stir Thursday by proposing "emergency regulations" to speed construction of housing for Soviet immigrants.

The regulations sought by Sharon would allow his ministry to seize private land for construction, possibly bypassing laws protecting archaeological sites and nature reserves, critics said.

Settlements have come under heavy scrutiny in recent months because of Arab criticism over Israel's policy of allowing some Soviet Jewish immigrants to move to the occupied Arab territories.

The Arabs fear Palestinians may be displaced and that their efforts to form an independent state will be undermined.

Abu Nidal group wants to return to Rashidiyeh camp

BEIRUT (AP) — Abu Nidal's radical Palestinian guerrilla faction said Friday it wanted to return to South Lebanon's Rashidiyeh refugee camp after being expelled two weeks ago by PLO fighters.

"We want to return to Rashidiyeh but on condition that the situation goes back to what it was before the series of crimes committed against our people," said Mansour Hamdan, official spokesman for Fatah-Revolutionary Council (FRC).

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's own Fatah guerrillas cracked down on Abu Nidal's men in nine hours of house-to-house fighting in Rashidiyeh on June 17-18 that left five people killed and 16 wounded.

By crushing Abu Nidal's men, Arafat established undisputed control over Rashidiyeh near the Southern port city of Tyre, (30 kilometres south of Beirut).

The fighting was touched off after the killing in Rashidiyeh of Omar Hamadeh, Tyre commander of FRC. Abu Nidal blamed the killing on Arafat's men.

"We also stress that the criminals be put on trial and punished," Hamdan told a news conference at West Beirut's Mar Elias Palestinian refugee camp.

He said Palestinian and Lebanese mediators were exerting efforts to settle the Abu Nidal-Arafat conflict.

Hamdan accused Arafat's men of "provocative acts" against FRC members in Ein Al Hilweh "which could lead to clashes."

Ein Al Hilweh, 40 kilometres south of Beirut, in the Sidon region, is the largest Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon. The region is dominated by hardcore PLO guerrillas loyal to Arafat.

Abu Nidal, whose real name is Sabri Al Banna, maintains bases in Ein Al Hilweh as well as in west Beirut, the eastern Bekaa Valley and northern Lebanon.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Thatcher 'trying every lead' on hostages

LONDON (AP) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has said in the House of Commons that British was continuing to "use every contact and follow up every lead" that might help free British hostages in Lebanon. But she gave no indication of any progress. She also avoided criticism of Iran, which is believed to have influence over Muslim fundamentalist groups holding captives. "Any nation which has any information about anyone who is held hostage should do all in its power to secure the release of the hostages. That is the only normal, civilized behaviour," she said. Answering lawmakers' questions, Mrs. Thatcher added that it was not yet "right" to resume diplomatic relations with Syria. Britain broke off relations in 1985 charging Syria with complicity in a foiled plot to blow up an Israeli airliner over London. Iran severed relations with Britain in March last year after Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini called on Muslims to kill Salman Rushdie, British author of the Satanic Verses, which many Muslims regard as blasphemous.

Algeria sends military aid to Hrawi

TRIPOLI, Lebanon (AP) — The Lebanese army under President Elias Hrawi has received the first consignment of military hardware from Algeria, military sources said. They said the shipment, which arrived by sea, included 250 armoured personnel carriers, 10 jeeps, and other supplies for the nearly 20,000-strong Lebanese army headed by Gen. Emile Lahoud. The sources, who cannot be named in line with standing rules, said another delivery of Algerian military aid is to arrive soon. The shipment was unloaded in this northern port city in the presence of the Algerian military attaché in Lebanon, Nouar Ramache, and the commander of the army's Second Brigade Yehya Raad, representing the army commander. Lahoud's army is poorly equipped, whereas the mostly Christian 20,000-strong Lebanese army under rebel Gen. Michel Aoun has more than 90 M-48 U.S.-made battle tanks and 50 French made MX-113 tanks plus hundred of armoured personnel carriers.

Israelis, Palestinians share news

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Israeli citizens, risking their governments wrath, met with Palestinians in secret to discuss Middle East conflict and obstacles to peace, a Swedish Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said. The ministry could not confirm reports from Israel and Stockholm that the Palestinian delegation included members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Spokesmen at the University of Uppsala's Department for Peace and Conflict Research, which organised the meeting as an academic seminar, said they did not know where it was being held. The Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said the location was being kept secret for security reasons. She confirmed that Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson and his undersecretary, Pierre Schori, planned to meet with the participants, who were attending in their personal capacities. According to news reports, the participants included Dedi Zucker, a member of the Israeli parliament; Ari Rath, former editor of the Jerusalem Post; Faisal Al Hussein, a West Bank Palestinian leader, and Sari Nusseibeh, professor at Bir Zeit University.

Aquino condoles Iran quake victims

MANILA (R) — President Corazon Aquino sent condolences and medicine to Iran for victims of last week's devastating earthquake that killed up to 50,000 people, the Philippine Foreign Office said Friday.

Gunmen kill 1, injure 15 in Istanbul court

ISTANBUL (R) — Gunmen shot dead one person and wounded 15 Friday in a crowd of Kurds leaving a courtroom where their leader was on trial, police said.

Officials said the Kurds had been attending the trial of Cemal Sincar, alleged to have shot dead a Turkish reporter and wounded a photographer from the mass-circulation daily Gazette in

November.

The court's chief prosecutor, Sevil Arat, told Reuters the attack on the Kurds could have been linked to a clan dispute.

He declined to give further details, citing a lack of evidence. The gunmen escaped in a car, leaving behind two Soviet-designed Kalashnikov rifles.

"We counted 46 bullets. They

raked the place. We are continuing our investigations," Arat said.

Gazete, a colourful cut-price daily, folded on Nov. 30. Its owners said the shootings of the reporter and photographer had nothing to do with the paper closing down.

The reporter was shot to death

and the photographer was wounded after Gazette published an article alleging Sincar had an affair with a woman singer. The journalists had been invited to Sincar's office to discuss the story.

Sincar was charged with murder and attempted murder. His trial is continuing.

Kuwait completes assembly team

By Hamza Hendawi
Reuters

KUWAIT — Kuwait has brought fresh blood into a controversial new assembly, appointing 25 deputies ahead of a three-month recess which diplomats say should provide a breathing space in a feud over democracy there.

The appointments Thursday completed a political process begun on April 22 when the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, called elections.

The poll followed weeks of national debate on the future of democracy in the wealthy northern Gulf nation.

Pro-democracy activists urged a boycott of the poll and demanded a return of the parliament dissolved in 1986 on the grounds of security during the nearby Iran-Iraq war.

They said the new assembly would be toothless and unconstitutional.

Among the 25 deputies appointed Thursday are five

ministers, the most senior of whom is Interior Minister Salem Al Sabah, a member of the ruling family.

The newcomers join 50 deputies elected on June 10 to the 75-seat, four-year National Assembly which is to review past parliamentary experiences and make non-binding suggestions on the future of democracy in Kuwait.

Kuwaiti and diplomatic sources said the 22-man cabinet sworn in last Saturday was made up mainly of technocrats and was virtually without members of Kuwait's big merchant families — social and economic pillars in the traditionally-mercantile state.

They said the new cabinet and the non-ministerial 20 appointed deputies widened the base of political participation by bringing for the first time new families and interest groups to the decision-making circle.

According to the sources, the absence of dominant merchant families might have been partly

due to the fact that several sympathised with the opposition's demands. They also objected to what they see as excessive government interference in the economy.

Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, Kuwait's prime minister since 1978, leads the new government.

The government and opposition have been locked in a trial of wills since December over a return of parliament and the sources said the planned three-month recess, shortly after an inaugural session on July 9, would be used by both to take stock.

Officials say about half of Kuwait's estimated 1.8 million inhabitants, escaping the Gulf state's scorching heat, have already left or plan to be out of Kuwait from this weekend until September.

Those who are accustomed to spending some of Kuwait's searing summer abroad include

members of the ruling Al Sabah family and ministers.

"I expect the government to review the whole process and accommodate our demands or opt for fresh escalation around October," said one opposition activist, referring to the arrest and later release of several group leaders in April and May.

According to the diplomatic and Kuwaiti sources, however, the opposition might be running out of ideas to maintain an active interest in their campaign by professional and business groups and widen their mainly-urban support.

The opposition group, led by some 30 former deputies, has charged that the authorities rigged this month's non-party polls, the first since 1985, to show a higher turnout.

The government said 62.26 per cent of the 62,000-strong, all-male electorate voted. It has not publicly commented on the rigging charge.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 73111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:40	Programme review
15:45	Children programme
17:30	Educational programme
18:00	World Cup: Yugoslavia vs. Argentina
PROGRAMME TWO	
19:50	Programme review
20:30	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:30	Programme review
21:40	Consumer's Guide
22:25	Local programme
23:00	News in Arabic
PRAYER TIMES	
6:53	Fajr
12:39	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
16:29	Dhuhr
	'Asr

JORDAN TIMES DAILY

in Jordan

weather. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman	Min./max. temp. 18 / 32
Aqaba	24 / 39
Dead Sea	19 / 37
Jordan Valley	22 / 38

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 32, Aqaba 38. Humidity readings: Amman 19 per cent, Aqaba 17 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Abdul Rahim Ahmad	744683
Dr. Khalid Ma'adi	743500
Dr. Hussein Haddad	731267
Dr. Mufeed Tannoush	894480
First pharmacy	661912
Fendous pharmacy	778336
Al Asena pharmacy	637055
Nairoukh pharmacy	636702
Al Salam pharmacy	624650
Yacoub pharmacy	644645
Shamsi pharmacy	637660

IRBID:

Dr. Ma'iz Al Barqawi	(—)
Al Shamsa pharmacy	(682738)

ZARQA:

Dr. Farah Aghabawi	(—)
Khalifeh pharmacy	985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630221
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	897467
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	767111
Complaints	767111
Telephone Information	630221
(directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	630221
Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	623101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680700
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power	

Essential services in place for holiday

AMMAN (J.T.) — In view of the coming week-long holiday in Jordan marking Eid Al Adha (Feast of Sacrifice) which begins Monday, government departments and the Greater Amman Municipality have made arrangements to ensure continued services for the public.

The municipality said in a statement Friday that cleaners and garbage collection process will be operating at 30 per cent capacity on the first day of Eid Al Adha, 50 per cent on the second day and 100 per cent on the third day.

But, it said, throughout the week services at the Amman National Park will be retained in full as large number of visitors and vacationers will be calling at the park during the coming holiday.

The statement, which came in a circular by Greater Amman Mayor Ali Subeihat, said that municipality offices will remain open throughout the holiday with officials on duty present to receive complaints and to deal with emergencies with the help of stand-by repair and emergency teams.

It also said that the central market place will close only on Monday and Tuesday, the first and second days of the holiday, and that the slaughter house will close on those two days.

The Health Ministry, meanwhile, announced that medical services at health centres will not be interrupted.

Pollution committee to meet

AMMAN (Petra) — The General Assembly of the Jordanian Society for Combating Environmental Pollution will hold its annual meeting July 9 under the chairmanship of the society's president Ahmad Obeidat.

The assembly will discuss proposed amendments to the basic system, a draft budget and a report by its administrative committee.

Deputies suggest measures to solve unemployment problems

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament is expected to resume debate on unemployment and means to tackle it on Saturday, July 7, after discussing the issue in an extended debate on Wednesday.

Deputies who addressed the House Wednesday noted "government inaction" on this issue. Deputies from different political blocs presented the House with suggestions of measures to contain the problem.

Deputy Mohammad Dardour said that unemployment was rampant among the unskilled and the educated. He called on vocational training institutes to help the first group to improve their skills and called on the government to ensure employment for the second group.

He also called on the government to release civil servants, on leave without pay, to work in the Gulf and replace them with unemployed job-seekers.

Deputy Hussein Mujali, called on the government to "admit the

deep crisis" the country is passing through and to inform the people of the dimensions of the crisis.

He said that such a problem requires non-traditional solutions and called for the formation of an "emergency government" to tackle the country's economic problems.

He also said that there was no escape for Jordan from the economic dilemma except through "unity". He said that Jordan's 1990s programme should aim at unity with other Arab countries.

Deputy Thouqan Hindawi delivered a lengthy speech in which he criticised the government for failing to carry out its pledge to fight unemployment. He called for creating employment opportunities in the teaching sector and for curbing the increasing flow of community colleges' graduates.

Hindawi also criticised the government for not doing enough to secure employment opportunities for Jordanians in the Gulf states.

Deputy Atta Shahwan warned against the increase of crime as a

result of unemployment. He called on the government to adopt a comprehensive agricultural strategy to help solve the problems.

Deputy Hisham Sharari called on the government to retrain unskilled workers in the south and to employ people with the public sector.

Deputy Issa Rimouni delivered a speech on behalf of deputies Jamal Khreishah, Jamal Haddad, Mohammad Abu Olein and Faisal Jazi in which he called for convening a national conference on the problem of unemployment.

Rimouni said that Jordanian expatriates' savings in the Gulf amount to \$15 billion and called for finding ways to entice the expatriates to invest in Jordan.

He also called on the PLO to invest in the refugee camps in Jordan.

Deputy Abdul Meneem Abu Zant called for banning the import of all goods that are produced locally.

Cheating students risk having exams cancelled

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — More than 700 students who sat for the 1989-1990 secondary school certificate examinations (tawjihi) could be liable to having their examinations null and void after being found cheating during the examination sessions which took place during this month or for absents themselves from school for lengthy periods of time, according to Dr. Mohammad Sayel Obeidat, Director of Examinations and the Evaluation Department at the Ministry of Education.

He told the Jordan Times Friday that supervising teachers in the examination halls discovered 96 cases of cheating. Students in some of these cases were only issued stern warnings but others, especially those who had brought material for cheating into the examination halls, had their examinations cancelled, according to Ministry of Education's tawjihi

examinations regulations, Obeidat said.

He said that 616 students will be denied the school certificate and also the tawjihi examinations for the past scholastic year for absents themselves from school in excess to the allowed number of days as set by the Ministry of Education which organises the annual examinations in Jordan.

Referring to those absents themselves from the examinations, Dr. Obeidat said that an average 1,200 students failed to sit for all or some of the examinations in the first session last January, rising in number to 2,000 in the second session this month.

He said however that those who fail in any subject or for some reason had to absent themselves from the examinations can sit for another session in the 1990-1991 examinations.

Obeidat said that teachers supervising examination in 857 halls did not report any major incidents.

A total of 66,302 students from private and public schools were registered to take part in the examinations in Jordan during the past scholastic year.

According to Obeidat, marking of papers and evaluation of students' work were continuing at 13 centres. 3,000 ministry appointed teachers are working on it. Marking of papers started on June 13 and the teachers have already completed evaluating the students' work in sciences, biology, Arabic in industrial streams, he said.

Teachers are expected to complete their work by July 10, and the ministry could announce the final results after July 20, Obeidat said.

Obeidat said that the application of one examination system at the end of scholastic years in Jordan could not come about before the 1993-94 scholastic year and in the course of implementing the 1987 national educational conference resolutions.

Increased demand forecast for housing units in Jordan

By Sahar Qura'een
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The demand for housing units and land is expected to witness a sharp rise this summer and the trend will continue for the next several years in view of the rising population of the Kingdom and return of expatriates, according to Jordanian economists and analysts.

One of the major elements in the phenomenon is the devaluation of the Jordanian dinar which makes it attractive for those who have foreign currency holdings, said Dr. Jawad Al Anani, an economist and former minister who now runs a consultancy firm in Amman.

Dr. Anani's view was supported by at least two other economists and a senior official of a private-sector establishment which specialises in building and selling housing units.

According to Dr. Anani, Jordan will have to provide 18,000 housing units a year for the next several years to meet the demand. The figures are based on a study conducted by the Housing Corporation in 1982/83.

"The annual growth in the Jordanian population is seen at four per cent, which roughly represents about 120,000 people," he said. This increase can be summarised in terms of housing as a demand for 13,000 to 14,000 housing units, while family separations will warrant an additional 1,000 units and replacement of existing old structures will herald the need for another 2,000 apartments, according to Dr. Anani.

Muawia Thebian, the director general of Beitama which caters to the housing needs of higher-middle class families, says that the private sector housing companies tend to construct high-priced apartments which sold well even when low-income housing offered by the government made

competition difficult. He cited as an example the Abu Nuseir housing project which was directed at low-income families. Such projects, Thebian said, "prompted the private sector to specialise in the building of one type of housing projects — mainly expensive apartments." He argued that competition on the low-priced projects worked against the interests of the private sector.

Thebian added that the conversion of the private sector to this type of housing exceeded the demand for it. Furthermore, feasibility studies were not required to acquire loans from the Housing Bank. Consequently, he says, large competition between the private sector led to oversupply of apartments and later to the departure of smaller companies from the market.

Thebian agrees that demand on housing is rising enormously, pointing out that the market "has gone out of stock." He says that the balance between demand and supply for housing units should not be more than three per cent on the demand side if price stability is to be achieved. "If it becomes less than one per cent, then the prices will soar," he said.

According to Thebian, the rise in prices for housing units was 20 to 40 per cent in the past two years. In addition to the known factors — the devaluation of the dinar and population growth — contributing to the rise, the two-fold rise in the value of agricultural and residential lands near Amman has also been a strong factor, he said.

Dr. Anani asserted that the devaluation of the dinar was a major factor in the rising need for housing. "The devaluation of the dinar, which is estimated at 40 per cent since 1988, encouraged Jordanian expatriates to buy houses and lands."

According to Anani, Jordanians

have about JD 2.7 billion as deposits in commercial banks both in long-term deposits and savings accounts and this indicates that there is liquidity in the market. He argues that people are trying to diversify their assets and therefore they would like to invest in land and housing.

Dr. Anani speculates that when demand on housing increases and when construction projects increase, the demand on serviced areas will increase and the prices of land will suddenly jump up. When the prices of land go up now, they will not reach more than their 1985 level taking into consideration the difference in the value of the dinar and its purchasing power which is less than 45 per cent in comparison with its purchasing power in 1985.

Dr. Abdulla Al Malki, president of the Association of Jordanian Banks, said that the rise in land and housing prices is not a speculation but it is a phenomenon which has already started.

"The rise in real estate prices will turn into a trend," Dr. Malki said. He believes, however, that this trend is "undetrimental" to the economy as long as the rise is a steady one. Dr. Malki explained that "since there are many land owners who are indebted to the banks and who will be able to repay their debts after selling their real estate this will give a boost to the banks and will help in reviving the economy."

Dr. Anani agrees with Malki that the present situation will eventually boost the economy. He said that he does not advise the government to avoid this situation "because activating the housing sector and construction sector in the Kingdom will create many jobs and will activate the demand on the commodities of many factories which are already operating below capacity." While this is one

positive element, he warned, there is also a cost represented in the declining opportunities which are faced by the limited-income groups. Therefore, he stressed, the government has to take measures to meet the needs of those people because housing is a basic need.

Regarding the effects of the rising prices of lands and houses on limited-income groups, Dr. Anani asserted that this will cause a real problem to low-income people who do not enjoy any increase in their real income. Thus, he called on the government to make some financial arrangements so that low-income people could afford to have a house. Dr. Anani also called on the government to reconsider population distribution — if it intends to offer aid for housing or subsidised housing — so as to avoid overcrowdedness in Amman or at least to keep people where they are.

Nevertheless, Dr. Anani minimises the problem of overcrowdedness in Amman because migration from urban areas to cities is expected to decrease. But he affirmed that the problems caused by the increase in population should not be ignored. He pointed out that this situation would increase higher prices in the serviced areas which as a result would prompt people to look for cheaper prices in areas which lack services, a phenomenon which would lead to an unorganised movement of people to and from densely populated areas at random. This consequently will raise the inhabitants' demands on the government to provide them with the required services, according to Dr. Anani.

According to real estate agents, the average price of apartments varies from area to area in Amman, starting from JD 25,000 for a two-bedroom apartment in some areas to as much as JD 75,000 in other areas described as "aristocratic."

Moscow revises emigration laws

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Soviet government is now revising its emigration laws to allow citizens to return to their homeland if they wished to do so in accordance with international laws and norms, especially the universal declaration on human rights, Soviet ambassador to Jordan Yuri Garadinov said in a statement Thursday.

Moscow reviews the settlement of Jewish immigrants in the occupied Arab lands as a flagrant violation of international laws and principles, the ambassador said during a press conference held at the Soviet Cultural Centre in Amman.

"I believe that this problem will be solved within the framework of international laws and the new immigration laws in the Soviet Union," Garadinov said. "We will not overlook Israel's actions and violations of international laws, especially in matters related to the Palestinian people and violations of their legitimate rights," Garadinov added.

He said Moscow would abide by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's warning that it would reconsider its decision to allow Jews to emigrate should Israel violate the international laws.

The ambassador expressed Moscow's view that the Middle East region is now facing increased tension following the assumption of power in Israel by extremist political parties and a decision by Washington to suspend dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Moscow has a firm position with regard to the Middle East question and is determined to deal with the Soviet Jewish immigration issue in a manner that can best conform with international laws," Garadinov said.

He criticised Israel for pursuing its expansionist policies in its drive to create a "greater Israel" at the expense of the Palestinian people.

He also voiced Moscow's regret at Washington's position and its decision to suspend dialogue with the PLO.

Writer appeals apostasy verdict

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — A Jordanian found guilty of apostasy by a Sharia court has appealed the verdict at the Higher Court of Sharia in Amman asserting that the junior court was incompetent to try the case and that its ruling was unconstitutional on several counts.

The appeal was filed last week by Ibrahim Abu Naab, a journalist and writer, who was found by the Naour Sharia Court to have been a member of the outlawed Qadiani sect. The ruling stipulated that Abu Naab be separated from his wife and children and all his writings be banned. Under Sharia laws, anyone found guilty of apostasy could not only be separated from his family and excommunicated but also killed, with the killer given immunity. However, a fatwa issued by the World Islamic League dictates three forms of punishment for Qadianis: dissolution of marriage and separation from children (the marriage could be restored if the marriage contract is rewritten and the couple go through a new wedding formality), refusal to eat the meat of animals slaughtered by Qadianis and ban from being buried in Muslim cemeteries.

However, Sharia court rulings in cases beyond the realm of religion-related personal issues such as marriage, divorce, child custody and inheritance are not binding on the civil law in force in Jordan. The Naour court recognised Abu Naab as a "repentant Muslim" but sentenced him anyway because of what it found as his past membership in the Qadiani sect, which questions some of the fundamental principles of Islam. Abu Naab, who has acknow-

ledged that he attended a 1987 conference of Qadianis in Telford, England, has repeatedly denied that he was ever a member of the mythical sect. He argued that he attended the Telford meeting in his capacity as a journalist, and a document — a key evidence of the prosecution — he signed there was only aimed at gaining him entry to the gathering of the Qadianis, who keep their activities shrouded in strict secrecy.

Abu Naab's appeal, filed on his behalf by lawyer Abdul Karim Faroun, contends that the Naour court's ruling "contradicts public liberties as provided for in Article 15 of the Constitution." Furthermore, it questions how anyone could be found a "repentant Muslim" and an apostate at the same time? Abu Naab told the Jordan Times.

Another point raised by the defendant in his appeal is related to a letter sent by the Naour court to the Ministry of Information asking that Abu Naab's writings be banned. This letter, according to Abu Naab, was sent on April 23, 1990, several days before the Sharia court prosecutor-general filed the case against him.

"I was tried and convicted even before the case was formally filed," Abu Naab asserted pointing out that a ban on his writing was one of the "punishments" prescribed for him by the court after he was ruled guilty.

No date has been set for a hearing on the appeal by the higher court. In the meantime, lawyer Faroun has also sent petitions to the Higher Council for the Interpretation of the Law and the Legislation Department of the Prime Ministry to consider the validity of the Naour court's decision, according to Abu Naab.

ACC maps out tourism strategy

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministers of tourism in the four member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries ended a two-day meeting in Amman by announcing several measures designed to promote cooperation in tourism-related fields.

The ministers, representing Jordan, Yemen, Iraq and Egypt, decided to set up a technical committee to set unified criteria and common principles to be adopted by the four countries based on terms and guidelines followed by Egypt.

They recommended that the governments of the four countries introduce measures designed to offer further facilities for travel to citizens of the four countries within the ACC group and to encourage the exchange of visits by tourist groups from the four countries.

In their statement at the end of the closing session, the four ministers underlined the need for exempting citizens from ACC states and their cars from taxes and other travel fees.

They also decided to issue a joint tourist newsletter featuring archaeological and tourist sites in the four countries and to organise a joint programme of foreign tourists' visits to these sites to be implemented in the first quarter of 1991.

They decided to declare 1993 as a year of tourism in the ACC member states and to organise a general seminar on marketing tourist attractions in preparation for the event. "Coordination among the four ACC states will be stepped up in tourist activities and in conferences and seminars in the Arab region and abroad," the statement said.

The ministers urged the creation of private and public tourism firms that can promote the marketing of tourist attractions and set up tourist centres and hotels to boost the tourism industry.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran received in his office Thursday Iraqi Minister of Tourism Samal Majid following the conclusion of the minister's meeting.

At the meeting, which was attended by Minister of Tourism Abdul Karim Al Kabarti, discussion covered the outcome of the ministerial meeting in Amman and future plans.

The prime minister called for further steps to be taken in the drive to achieve integration within the ACC states in tourism affairs.

The Iraqi minister said that his country was giving due concern to developing tourism, benefiting from the successful experiences of neighbouring countries.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings depicting the Jordanian environment by Adel Al Sanaani, Mohammed Asaad and Hani Khazaleh at the Housing Bank Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "La revolution: 200 ans apres" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of Ottoman textiles at Abdul Hammed Shamsan Foundation — 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- ★ Open studio and workshop for artist Samih Zura displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-printed fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).

FILM

- ★ English-subtitled German film entitled "Carver David Friedlich" at the Goutie Institute — 8:00 p.m.

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An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO
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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

View from Amman

By Kamel S. Abu Jaber

Yearning for the familiar and fear of the unknown

THROUGHOUT the Islamic World, and even beyond, the cry is heard, "Islam is the solution." "Allah Akbar," "God is Greater," it is emphasised, it is the "only" solution. Is it the lament of an alienated people yearning for something familiar? Or is it a positive force struggling to offer a new path? The sounds of anguish, fury and the static of hostile noises make the deafening sound so strong it is impossible to discern right from wrong.

In Arabic they are called *Al Usuliyyun*, those of the roots. *Al Salafiyyun*, those attached to the ancestors, or sometimes just *Islamiyun*, simply those attached to Islam, their religion. Often, and this has become the general term encompassing them, they are called the fundamentalists. In the concise edition of Webster's New World Dictionary, 1962, the word "fundamental" is defined as, "... of or forming a foundation, or basis; basic, essential..." The term "fundamentalism" is defined, "... orthodox religious beliefs based on a literal interpretation of the Bible, and regarded as fundamental to Christian faith..."

These terms reveals several interesting ideas not commonly associated with Islamic orthodoxy, or fundamentalism, especially when discussed by Western observers. First and most important, that fundamentalism is not new, nor has it ever been, confined to the world of Islam; that fundamentalism is also a Christian, indeed a universal phenomenon, and that it describes the attempt by believers of any faith to turn to something orthodox, correct, when they feel the need to do so.

Can it be denied that the world of Islam, indeed the entire non-Western segment of humanity, has been feeling the need to turn to something familiar, "forming a foundation, or basis" in the last two or three centuries? It was at the end of the Middle Ages, that Western civilisation, with its good, bad, beautiful and ugly burst upon the world scene,

attracting and often imposing its vision of the contemporary world as well as the world to come. Unlike any other civilisation before or since, with the possible exception of the civilisation of Islam; it is a living, breathing, dynamic civilisation that questions and tests, elevates or discards all that stands in its path. It changes peoples and cultures the very minute they come in contact with it, even those who disclaim or reject it. Like a virus that unleashes a new force at the moment of contact, it too changes even those who reject it and steer clear of its path.

So then other fundamentalism is, in the long run, doomed very much like Christian fundamentalism, was doomed before the onslaught of Western civilisation though strands of it still survive. For those who suffer the contact, and none can escape it, their life, their culture, their system is never the same. In fact, the agony becomes much deeper and the pain more profound as the level of resistance increases. In reviewing the experience of other cultures and other societies, it is precisely those who sought not to resist but to absorb, to adapt and to change that have had the easiest transition. To change and to adapt not only oneself and one's culture, but that of the invader as well, at the same time taming both with an eye to survival above all else. It is the sign of a dead culture that cannot change or change the force that is sweeping across it.

Passing the buck will no longer work

FROM the lengthy discussions on the Parliament floor, it seems that neither the deputies nor the ministers have a clear-cut policy addressing the country's problem of unemployment. Unemployment, being only one facet of the overall economic crisis, could never be solved in isolation of the other factors of the crisis such as mismanagement.

So far, we are still thinking and acting in old-fashioned ways. The economic crisis and unemployment resulted primarily from the lack of funds, both public and private. On the governmental level, the whole system is still fixed to old habits of securing funds. For their part, private entrepreneurs would not give a second thought to investing in a regional climate of insecurity and instability.

The government cannot continue to wishfully think that Arab brothers will come to the full rescue of Jordan. Nor should Jordanians continue to depend indefinitely on foreign aid, Arab or otherwise. The Kingdom must aim at self-sufficiency. This goal will not be totally possible, not in the immediate future at least. In the same vein, the government cannot expect investors to put their money in the country while the regional atmosphere is not conducive to security and stability.

The economic crisis and unemployment can only be solved through radical reforms of political and socio-economic perceptions. Employment in the over-stuffed public sector, as many deputies suggested, would not solve the problem, it would only aggravate it. Because by further stretching the civil service only more public spending and further deterioration of the executive body would result. On the contrary civil service should be trimmed down and surplus funds employed in productive projects. It has become a fact that civil servants produce less than what they consume. This is only one area in which reform, contrary to previous perceptions and deputies' calls, can pay off.

The fact that all political blocs in the House are calling on the government to come up with solid policies in this regard does not absolve them of the responsibility. No one, bloc or otherwise, seems to have come up with a clearly defined, alternative programme for solving the country's problem. Until they do so, they should not make noises.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Friday commented on a press conference by Soviet Ambassador to Jordan Yuri Garandov Thursday, which was mainly devoted to discussing Soviet Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine. The paper said that this immigration came in direct response to United States pressures, and is proceeding now as a "price" paid by Moscow in exchange for moving closer to Washington. The Arabs object to the Jewish immigration, the paper said, simply because it is bound to increase Israel's manpower capabilities which are being combined with the flow of most sophisticated American weapons to enable Israel to continue to expand at the expense of the Arab Nation. It said that the Jewish immigration which will of course help Israel to deprive the Palestinians of their legitimate rights is not linked to the condition of respecting the Palestinian peoples rights; and therefore, it is a violation of the Arab human rights.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily invites the Arab lobby in the United States to exercise pressure on the U.S. administration and the U.S. Congress to stop aid to Israel. The U.S. Congress has already taken a decision to stop aid to any nation which does not respect human rights; and therefore the way is open for the Arab lobby in America to raise the matter not only with the U.S. Congress but also at U.S. courts to stop aid to Israel which has killed or wounded 63,000 Palestinian civilians since the outbreak of the uprising in December 1987, says Tareq Masarweh. The writer bails the European Community statement issued earlier this week in Dublin as reflecting the European nations freedom from the United States hegemony, and demonstrating the true feelings of the Europeans towards the Palestine question and the people of Palestine. He says that the Arabs ought now to approach the Europeans to enlist their assistance in pressuring the United States to change its position with regard to the situation in the Middle East. The European Community statement in Dublin has explicitly defended Palestinian human rights, promised aid to the Palestinian people living under occupation, and deplored Israel's inhuman practices, says the writer. This European position, he adds, marks a complete change and manifests Europe's determination to act independently from the United States to remove injustice done to the Palestinians and to maintain its strong ties with the Arab World.

Al Dastour daily commented on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's reply to a message from President Bush in which he said that Israel has nothing new to offer at the negotiating table. The message explains Israel's views which do not consider "settlement construction" in the occupied Arab lands as an obstacle to peace, and can only talk to those Palestinians of its own choice excluding the Arab people in Jerusalem, the paper noted. It said that the Shamir message has clearly ruined any prospects for a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo and made U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan a mockery. With this message, Shamir is saying to Washington that it has to accept only Israel's views, the paper continued. It is premature to know the U.S. administration's reply to this message, said the paper, but our experience tells us that Washington would simply announce that it will continue the dialogue with "the Israeli ally" to reach an acceptable formula.

NATO wooing Moscow into submission over united Germany

By Nicholas Doughty
Reuter

Soviet economy.

BRUSSELS — NATO, abandoning its earlier confidence that Moscow would give way, has started working flat out to ally Soviet objections to a united Germany being in the Western alliance.

The latest proposal to this end is a West German one suggesting that limits be agreed soon at conventional arms talks in Vienna on a united Germany's armed strength.

This is something Moscow has repeatedly said it wants and Bonn, backed by France, is also pushing its Western allies to give financial aid to the crippled

In a further move aimed at calming Soviet fears, West Germany wants NATO to agree to a non-aggression pact of some kind with its cold war enemies — the countries of the now-crumbling Warsaw Pact.

Just a few weeks ago, NATO officials were confidently predicting Moscow would give in and that German unification, the key element of any new European order, could be completed quickly. What has brought the change of heart?

"There is a very real fear that the Soviet Union could hold out for a long time and that German unification would become messy," said one NATO diplomat.

The two German states are already on the threshold of unification and even the Soviet Union says it cannot stop the process. As of this Sunday, they become one state in economic and monetary terms and Bonn wants all-German elections in December.

But the concern at NATO is that the security aspects of German unification, in which Moscow has a clear say, could lag behind domestic developments and that a united Germany would not have resolved the issue of which alliance it should join.

Moscow, citing security concerns and still bitter memories of more than 20 million Soviet dead in World War II, has stoutly resisted the idea of NATO membership for Germany at the so-called "two plus four" talks.

These group the two Germans with the four allied powers — the Soviet Union, the United States, France and Britain — in discussions on security aspects of German unification.

At the last "two plus four" meeting in East Berlin late last week, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze presented a plan which suggested United German forces should be limited to between 200,000 and 250,000 men and that there should be a phased withdrawal of foreign forces from Germany.

The plan was immediately re-

jected by the West, which said it contradicted a fundamental principle that a united Germany should be a sovereign state.

The Western allies have also said that German troop limits can be discussed only at the Vienna talks and only if Germany is not singled out for special treatment.

The latest idea being considered at the 16-nation alliance's Brussels headquarters, outlined by West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher late last week, would appear to sidestep those problems neatly while taking Soviet concerns into account.

Armed forces of a united Germany would be limited, but so would other allied forces, according to the scheme.

But the plan, one of several being considered, could also significantly complicate the current Vienna talks on cutting Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE), which so far envisage reductions only in U.S. and Soviet Troop levels.

The alliance has already committed itself to further talks on troop cuts after an initial CFE treaty, which will reduce Soviet and U.S. troop levels to 195,000 on each side in Central Europe and scrap thousands of pieces of heavy equipment.

But Genscher says agreement on further cuts should not be left until fresh talks, but reached in the current round.

'Shadowy and unelected' advisers blamed for leader's failure

By Jeremy Clift
Reuter

MANILA — Philippine president Corason Aquino faced a damaging split in her ruling coalition this week after an outspoken and angry attack by the speaker of congress on her own grassroots political movement.

Speaker Ramon Mitra blasted the "shadowy and unelected" advisers behind the new movement in a statement published by major Manila newspapers this week.

If a government was so weak that it defaulted on the delivery of basic services, "then such a government has no business claiming to govern at all," he said.

Mitra said he would never bend his knee to presidential advisers "who can give us all post-graduate lessons in deviousness and intrigue."

"The battle lines have been drawn. His statement will polarise the country," an Asian diplomat said.

Aquino launched her Kabisig, or arm-in-arm, movement on June 12, to speed up cabinet programmes to combat widespread poverty by linking Manila with provincial administrations, the private sector, cause-oriented groups and grassroots community organisations.

The new movement will speed

up implementation of agricultural, road and health projects, Aquino said.

She said she was tired of politicians who were already jockeying for position in 1992 elections and who mouthed support for her government while blocking her legislation in congress.

If Aquino's new movement was intended to bypass congress then he would fight it, warned Mitra, who helped Aquino to power in the popular revolt that toppled the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos four years ago.

Aquino, who has survived six coup attempts, denied Kabisig was being launched as a vehicle for her reelection in 1992. She has said repeatedly she will not stand again.

Few political commentators believe her, saying she is setting up her own political apparatus separate from the ruling Laban-NG Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) party run by Mitra and her own younger brother, Congressman Jose Cojuangco.

Rightwing army rebels accuse Aquino of weakness and incompetence.

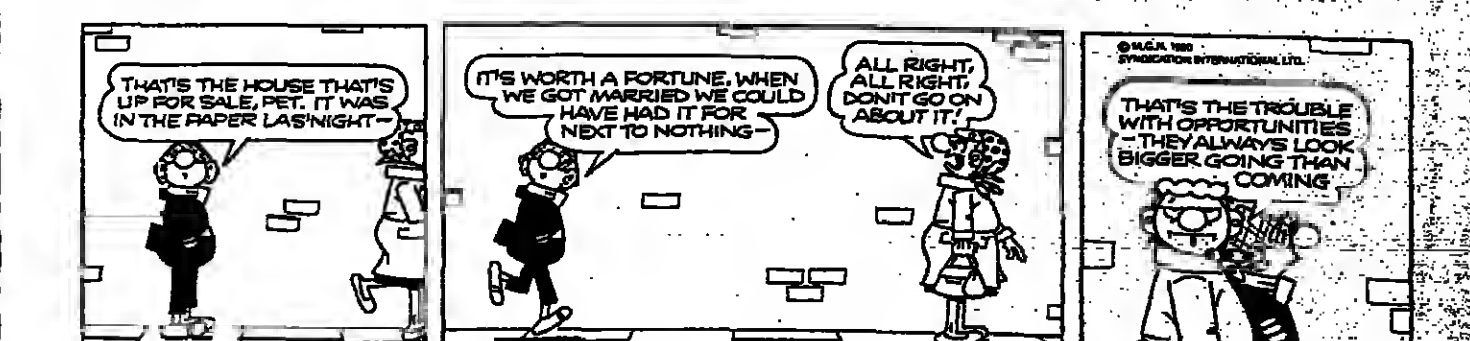
Aquino's problem was "the mediocrity that surrounds her," Mitra said in his statement.

Mitra, who has his own presidential ambitions, accused Aquino's advisers of attempting to pass the blame for their failures on to congress.

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



E. Yaghi
Amman

Features

Sewage in Gaza — time-bomb ticking away

by Paul Taylor
Reuters

GAZA — The biggest threat to Israeli beaches may come not from saboteur Palestinian guerrillas but a rising tide of sewage washing up from the occupied Gaza Strip.

Whatever the fate of the Palestinian uprising in Israeli-occupied Arab territories, still burning strongly in its 31st month, experts say the narrow coastal strip with an exploding population and no natural resources is a time-bomb ticking in Israel's back yard.

Untreated sewage, festering in cramped, overcrowded refugee camps and pouring into the Mediterranean Sea, is just one hazard in what a U.N. official called "a vicious circle of sanitary and environmental problems."

They include tapeworms gnawing away at the intestines of many Palestinian children, and salt seeping into the area's wells, threatening the drinking water.

"Gaza is a sewage time-bomb waiting to explode," said Joyce Starr, co-chairman of the Global Strategy Council, a U.S.-based think-tank working on world water problems.

"People rarely think of sewage as a strategic issue, but even if there is a peace agreement with Israel, Gaza has reached the limits of its disposable water re-

sources," she said.

Starr said Israel refuses to invest in the infrastructure of the Gaza Strip, a sandy plain 45 kilometres long and on average eight kilometres wide, which the Jewish state captured from Egypt in the 1967 Middle East war.

Two U.N. agencies have plans to build a sewage system there but do not have the \$50 million the project would cost.

"If I may be really cynical: if something really disastrous happened, we might get the money," said Jan Dahlman, a Swedish water expert with the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA).

He said raw sewage from most of Gaza City and the giant Shati refugee camp was currently going directly into the sea.

With Scandinavian understatement, he added: "I wouldn't recommend swimming off the Gaza coast."

Prevailing currents carried the sewage northwards to Israel across an invisible sea border which no navy can seal, he said.

No one knows exactly how many people live in the Gaza Strip but the density is one of the highest in the world, comparable with Calcutta.

Israeli occupation authorities, in a classified 1987 study completed on the eve of the intifada (uprising), estimated the population at 634,000 and forecast it

would soar to nine million by the year 2000.

The impoverished Gaza population is largely dependent on work in Israel for subsistence.

There are few local jobs — UNRWA is the biggest employer with 4,500 staff — but some 60,000 Palestinians commute daily in menial jobs in the Jewish state.

UNRWA officials say there has been something of a baby boom during the uprising, perhaps because many families have been confined in their homes for prolonged periods under curfew.

Among Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, having many children is seen as an Islamic duty and a nationalist achievement.

A slogan often heard in the refugee camps says: "we are making the revolution in our beds."

The few development projects in which Israel was engaged before the intifada stopped once the revolt erupted.

A showcase rehabilitation programme allowing refugees to build their own homes in government housing projects outside the camps has been frozen for two-and-a-half years.

In 10 years, about 70,000 refugees were rehoused in four neighbourhoods outside the camps.

But even while it was in operation, population growth far out-

stripped the rate of building of new housing.

UNRWA officials say the Israeli programme compounded the overcrowding problem because a condition of rehabilitation was that the refugees destroy their camp shelter, leaving the plot disused.

No new housing may be built in the camps and Israel does not allow the building of a second storey in refugee shelters.

In winter, cesspits overflow, flooding homes in low-lying areas of the camps. Children play knee-deep in sewage water.

In summer, untreated sewage seeping into the Wadi Gaza river bed draws swarms of mosquitoes spreading disease.

"Intestinal parasites are a major problem. Among children in the camps, not less than 50 per cent have this infestation," says Dr. Iyad Al Rayyes, an UNRWA health official.

He said health conditions had improved in the Gaza Strip. Ten years ago, gastroenteritis from contaminated food and water was the biggest cause of death. Today the main cause is chest infections.

Israeli journalist Ehud Yaari and Zeev Schiff, in a recent book on the intifada, said the government quickly shelved the 1987 report on "the Gaza district up to the year 2000" because its findings were too unpalatable.



In summer, untreated sewage seeping into the Wadi Gaza river bed draws swarms of mosquitoes spreading disease.

Parliament

(Continued from page 1)

the PLO and said the dialogue is not a goal for its sake but a means for convening an international peace conference on the Middle East and for achieving a comprehensive and lasting peace in the region.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Isamat Abdul Meguid said Thursday he hoped Italy's six-month presidency of the EC would be decisive for the Middle East.

Italian government aides said Abdul Meguid expressed the hope during talks with Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti as he began a three-day visit Thursday.

Italy assumes the rotating EC presidency from Ireland on July 1.

Abdul Meguid also briefed Andreotti on his recent visit to Washington to try to keep the peace process on track.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir accused Italy of being hostile to Israel, in an interview with the Italian newspaper Il Tempo published Friday.

Shamir also said he was not optimistic that Rome's six-month presidency of the EC would help dialogue towards peace.

"We have many friends in Italy but unfortunately the official attitude of the present government isn't friendly towards Israel," the newspaper quoted him as saying.

"I see in Italy an extreme, factiousness which goes as far as not recognising Israel's rights in their own country... I hope all this isn't manifested in any concrete way during Italy's presidency," he said.

Kuwait also expressed appreciation of the EC declaration on the Middle East, but appealed to the EC leaders to ensure implementation to the letter.

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Economic policy revolves around export-led growth

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Export-led economic growth is the key element of the government's approach to addressing the Kingdom's financial problems and unemployment, and the cabinet is pursuing a multi-pronged programme of encouragement to setting up new industries and helping local industries to export more and thus creating employment opportunities, according to Ziad Fariz, minister of industry and trade.

The programme mainly includes simplification of procedures of registering new industries, consultations and advice to potential entrepreneurs, plans to merge the Free Zones Corporation with the Industrial Estates Corporation and restructure the Jordan Commercial Centres Corporation (JCCC) into a fully-export oriented organisation as well as customs duty exemptions on raw material to manufacture goods for export, Fariz told reporters in an informal briefing Thursday.

"There is no restriction on investment in any sector," the minister told reporters against the backdrop of heavy criticism of the government's economic policy and approach to tackling rising unemployment. "The procedures of registering a new company can be done in a matter of hours... since the ministry no longer insists that the investor furnish feasibility studies etc. prior to registration," he said.

He conceded, however, that there could be delays in other procedures related to municipal regulations, environment, water and power supply, transport and technical aspects, and said the Ministry of Industry and Trade was ready to help investors through these bureaucracies. A special unit at the ministry is offering help as well as consultations and advice to investors based on market studies, he said.

The National Fund for Employment and Development has already been allocated JD 7 million and the government expects to receive a \$10 million loan from the World Bank and "parallel financing from other sources to the fund," Fariz said.

The JD 7 million allocation represents interest incurred on loans from West Germany from the date of the loan agreement to the day of actual disbursement of the amount. The Bonn government agreed to waive the interest payment and that it be diverted to the fund after talks between senior officials from the two sides last week.

"Given the objectives of the

fund, it is assisted by the World Bank, which has also secured assurances that this project will be helped with parallel financing (of an equal amount as that of the World Bank loan) from other sources," he said.

The Industrial Development Bank (IDB) is handling the fund. The delay in setting up the fund was one of the areas of criticism levelled against the government last week by the liberal "National Bloc" as well as the Islamic Bloc in the Lower House. The creation of the fund was promised in the policy statement Prime Minister Mudar Badran to parliament early this year.

Fariz told the briefing session, arranged by the Ministry of Information and attended by Minister of Information Ibrahim Izzeddin, that the government was also studying a proposal to merge the Free Zones Corporation with the Industrial Estates Corporation with a view to "reducing bureaucratic procedures and modernising the infrastructure of the Industrial Estates Corporation." A study has been undertaken by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to review the pros and cons of the proposal, he said adding that there was a "considerable increase in the number of investments in the Free Zones Corporation since early this year."

Experts grow

According to the minister, national exports registered a growth of 36 per cent in dollar terms and eight per cent in Jordanian dinars during the first five months of 1999 compared with corresponding figures from 1998. Exports grew by 11 per cent in dollar terms last year, he said. Figures released in Parliament last week said Jordan exported goods worth JD 240 million during the first five months of 1999. Imports grew only by three per cent during the first five months of this year, according to Fariz.

The minister described as "realistic" an envisaged target of JD 700 million in exports for 1999. The projection has been made by the Amman Chamber of Industry based on the performance of Jordanian exporters during the first five months of this year. The Kingdom's exports during last year amounted to JD 360 million.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade also plans to set up a special unit with the aim of encouraging the services sector, one of the traditionally strong areas of the national economy, Fariz said the unit would extend help to consultancy and management firms in the country with a view to making available expert advice

and consultancy services not only for projects in Jordan but also elsewhere in the region.

Turning to inflation and cost of living, the minister said the average price index indicated that prices rose by seven per cent between January and end of May. He noted that this figure was lower than the 12 per cent envisaged in an economic restructuring programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Fariz said the government would bring these aspects into focus in response to Parliament criticism over these issues and subsidies as well as the Cabinet decision to float the prices of red meat.

'Well-balanced' programme

"We have a well-balanced programme to fight inflation, and it properly addresses unemployment and poverty," he said. "It has very good economic balance while (providing for the care) of the poor," he stressed. "The impact of (every economic decision) on the poor is of a prime concern for the government."

According to the Minister, the move to allow the import of livestock for local breeding and slaughter and a free market for red meat after decades of government control and subsidy "is in the interest of the country."

"There was no fair distribution of the subsidy," Fariz said. "It was in favour of the rich. The floating of the prices is in the interest of everybody and will rationalise consumption... in addition to encouraging the trade sector, offering job opportunities (in breeding livestock) and lessening the burden on the budgeting."

According to Fariz, the government's efforts to encourage exports include moves to set up an export guarantee scheme and a special bank to finance exports in addition to arranging rediscounting facilities at the Central Bank of Jordan, and increasing IDB help for the import of primary material for manufacturing industries.

Focus is also given to entering bilateral trade agreements with importing countries, and allowing the private sector to take charge and run the JCCI "to help exports in all its elements — advice, information, marketing and direct support."

Such support has assumed high significance in the wake of problems faced by Jordanian exporters in some of their traditional market. Recently enacted legislation on imports by the Iraqi government has adversely affected many Jordanian industries, which, for years, have oriented their products towards the Iraqi market. "It is a matter of



Ziad Fariz

policy (for the Iraqi government), and such curbs are not limited to Iraq, Fariz said. "We are advising the exporters to diversify their market as well as products and not to rely on a sole export market."

Similar problems are also encountered with Egypt, and Jordan hopes to tackle the issue during the meeting next month of the joint trade committee of the two countries, the minister added.

Fariz said there was no plan to set up a government-owned insurance company as called for by the Islamic Bloc in Parliament. "It is not desirable," he said. "We believe that we have very active insurance companies which are very much aware of what is expected of them."

The minister conceded that there was ground to charges that government investments were lacking in several areas. He said the Jordan Investment Corporation (JIC), the state agency which manages government investments — including capital from the multi-million dollar Social Security Corporation (another target of criticism in Parliament) — was looking into the issue.

The government is seeking to separate agricultural credit facilities from the functions of the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO). "We believe that the JCO should be more involved in promoting cooperatives than in agriculture credits," the minister said.

Fariz also conceded that there were problems related to exports of agricultural produce to Europe, and the ministry was trying to find solutions in conjunction with the Ministry of Transport, Royal Jordanian, the national carrier, and the Ministry of Agriculture. According to exporters, one of the main problems is what they see as certain monopoly-oriented policies and regulations of Royal Jordanian. In addition, experts say, a recently enacted law that foreign-registered refrigerated trucks can pick up Jordanian produce only after obtaining prior approval could adversely affect the Kingdom's efforts to boost agricultural exports to Europe.

Japan-U.S. trade accord receives mixed reaction

WASHINGTON (R) — Japan and the United States have worked out a trade agreement that holds the promise of easing trade tensions, but critics in the U.S. Congress warned Tokyo that the proof will be more U.S. exports soon.

President George Bush said Thursday he was satisfied with the results of trade negotiations in Tokyo in which Japan promised to cut its \$49 billion annual trade surplus with the United States.

But several lawmakers, including Senate Finance Committee Chairman Lloyd Bentsen, a Texas Democrat whose panel oversees trade laws, said the agreement fell short of expectations.

"Japan should implement this agreement, but it should also go further," Bentsen said. He wants Tokyo to lift more trade barriers that keep out U.S. products. "The worth of that agreement can only be measured by hard trade results... the jury is still out," Bentsen said.

The White House held off pa-

ssage of restrictive trade laws by the promise of results in these talks, but trade protectionism could be considered if Congress is angered at a lack of progress on the U.S. trade deficit.

Japan agreed to measures designed to bring in more foreign goods, pledging to increase public works spending and reform some restrictive business practices which had kept out American products and services.

The United States agreed to spur exports through steps like reducing its big budget deficit with new taxes, increasing the savings needed for business investment and improving worker education and productivity.

Analysts said they also agreed to annual reviews and a report on how each side was living up to its commitments.

Bush said the talks "can help us move away from trade disputes, thus allowing us to focus our efforts on more positive activities as we continue to develop a global partnership between our two countries."

Commerce Secretary Robert

Mosbacher said he thought results would show up in trade figures by next summer.

"I believe it will work because our president is hands-on involved, talking about it with the Japanese prime minister. I think it raised it to a level where its not working is reduced considerably," he said in an interview.

But House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt said the pact only nibbled at the edges of the problem of the exclusion of U.S. products from Japan and the targeting of specific U.S. industries for competition from Japanese products.

"We've got to measure success... by the volume of increased exports," the Missouri Democrat said.

He complained that Bush wanted to give Japanese investors preferential treatment in the United States by opposing legislation to tax foreign shareholders on capital gains from the sale of stock in U.S. corporations.

Other trade experts also questioned whether Japan would make good on its pledges.

"Japanese credibility is not high in that area," one congressional trade specialist said.

Main points

Following are the key elements of the accord:

Japan will continue to make narrowing its current account surplus a top priority, though it is also aware of the need for a high savings ratio to enable it to give overseas nations financial help.

Japan agreed to increase its spending for public works over the next 10 years to 430 trillion yen (\$2.8 trillion) and to make 25 trillion yen (\$1.62 billion) in capital investments in Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation and Japan railways, which have been privatised.

Japan will simplify its import process and has made it easier to open large retail stores, which could import foreign products. Japan will make anti-monopoly policy more strict and raise fines levied against illegal cartels.

It will change its foreign exchange law to invite more investment by foreigners.

Norwegian oil pay talks deadlocked

OSLO (R) — Pay talks between Norwegian oil workers and employers were deadlocked Friday, threatening to spark a strike that would halt North Sea oil and gas output from the weekend.

"We are still in negotiations and hopefully we will finish tomorrow evening," said Roald Larsen, deputy leader of the oil workers' collective union, which has around 6,000 members.

"So far there's been no progress, but we're optimistic," he added. The union would order a strike from midnight (2200 GMT) on Saturday if there was no breakthrough.

A strike could stop Norway's output of 1.70 million barrels of oil a day, the most of any West European country after Britain — and worth more than \$27 million a day. Norway is also a major gas producer.

Fears of a strike, which would be the first such stoppage in Norway since a 19-day strike halted oil output in 1986, have pushed up oil prices on world markets in recent days.

Although only 6,000 workers are in the Oil Workers' Collective Union they are in key jobs and so can halt most production systems and pipelines. Around 65,000 people work in the petroleum industry in Norway.

Oil companies were making contingency plans to lift all but essential maintenance and catering workers off North Sea platforms.

"We're hoping for the best but fearing the worst," said Sander Bull-Gjertsen, spokesman for Phillips' Petroleum Company's Norwegian unit, which operates the Ekofisk field, producing around 240,000 barrels per day.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, June 28, 1999
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	119.4	120.1
U.S. dollar	667.0	671.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	432.1	434.7
Pound Sterling	1162.4	1168.4	Dutch guilder	356.3	358.4
Deutschmark	401.1	403.5	Swedish crown	110.1	111.3
Swiss franc	473.9	476.7	Italian lira (for 100)	54.7	55.0
			Belgian franc (for 10)	195.5	196.7

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.7415/25	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1680/90	Canadian dollar	
	1.6710/15	Deutschemarks	
	1.8815/25	Dutch guilders	
	1.4150/60	Swiss francs	
	34.33/38	Belgian francs	
	5.6175/6225	French francs	
	1226/1227	Italian lire	
	152.20/30	Japanese yen	
	6.0450/6500	Swedish crowns	
	6.4175/4225	Norwegian crowns	
	6.3550/3600	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	352.50/353.00	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Tokyo stocks were lower at close in moderate trade ahead of the weekend. After an early morning surge on a firmer yen, trade subsided. The Nikkei fell 165.95 to 31,940.24.

SYDNEY — The share market ended firmer with the day's main feature being end of financial year window dressing and options exercises. The All Ordinaries rose six to 1,500.7.

HONG KONG — Prices of blue chips consolidated as trading focused on smaller stocks. Only three blue chips were among the 10 most traded stocks. The Hang Seng Index ended 4.96 up at 3,278.24.

SINGAPORE — Share prices ended slightly weaker but off the day's lows on a reduced volume. The Straits Times Industrial Index fell 4.77 to 1,526.96.

BOMBAY — A wave of buying swept the Bombay Stock Exchange, pushing its index to a new high for the fifth day in a row. The index surged 16.01 points, or 1.92 per cent, to 850.50 and rose 35.78 points on the week.

FRANKFURT — Shares slipped nearly one per cent on the eve of German monetary union, but dealers said they were not worried about the market's future. The Dax Index closed down 15.27.

PARIS — Perrier rose 12 francs to 1,582 after ageing Chairman Gustav Leven stepped down. The CAC-40 index lost 3.38 points to 2,035.03.

LONDON — Expiry of the June FTSE futures contract gave shares a roller-coaster day. "There was such a lot of mucking around early on it was difficult to see what was going on," a trader said. The FTSE Index ended up 18.9 points at 2,574.6.

NEW YORK — President George Bush encouraged Wall Street with comments about lower interest rates. At 1644 GMT the Dow Jones industrial average was up 4.95 to 2,883.66.

Congress approves aid bill

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The House of Representatives has approved a \$15,770-million foreign aid bill that cuts back military assistance programmes while boosting economic assistance, especially to sub-Saharan Africa and Eastern Europe.

The measure, passed by a 308-117 vote June 28, would shift funding toward economic and development programmes centred on trade development, child survival programmes, refugees, population planning and environmental concerns.

Before giving final approval to the measure, the House approved, 260-163, a controversial amendment that earmarks \$7 million in non-lethal aid to the non-Communist resistance forces in Cambodia, while prohibiting any direct or indirect aid to the Khmer Rouge.

House members who sought to strip out the item contended that the resistance forces trying to oust the current pro-Vietnamese government in Cambodia are closely linked with the Khmer Rouge, a group charged with carrying out genocidal policies while in control of Cambodia in the 1970s. The Bush administration strongly supports the amendment.

House opponents, mainly Democrats, said the issue is sure to come up again when the overall bill advances to the Senate for consideration.

Supporters of the Bush administration prevailed again in turning back a House floor effort to channel \$1.5 million in voluntary family planning assistance to Romania through the International Planned Parenthood Fed-

eration and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities.

While the family planning assistance funds were overwhelmingly approved the House first adopted, 224-198, an amendment deleting any reference to the two groups, which are accused by antiabortion groups of supporting coercive abortion policies in China.

Though the two named family planning organisations are the only ones currently operating in Romania, the bill as passed leaves it up to the U.S. Agency for International Development to select another contractor it deems appropriate. Representative Christopher Smith, a Republican who moved to delete the two named groups, warned their inclusion could prompt a presidential veto of the entire bill.

Meeting calls for diversification of Palestinian industry

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Arab academics in the Israeli-occupied territories have called for diversifying Palestinian industry and asked Arab countries to open their markets to West Bank goods to reduce residents' dependence on Israel.

At a conference in occupied Jerusalem, some 50 academics and businessmen Wednesday discussed a two-year study on West Bank industry by economists from Al Najah University in the West Bank city of Nablus.

The academics said that Arab industry, mainly food products, footwear and plastics, represented just eight per cent of all West Bank economic output.

They said the Israeli occupation authorities had refused to grant licences for new factories and called for launching small-scale industrial enterprises to circumvent such restrictions.

The academics also asked Arab countries to drop restrictions on manufactured goods from the West Bank.

Palestinians waging a 30-month-old revolt against Israeli occupation have largely boycotted products made in Israel in a bid to promote self-sufficiency.

"The intifada had had positive impact on promoting Palestinian industrial products," said Samir Abdullah, an economics lecturer.

Traffic jams in the sky threaten aircraft producers

By Michela Wrong
Reuters

TOULOUSE, France — Aircraft builders say the sky's the limit for new civilian jet orders, but aerial traffic jams might stop sales from soaring too high.

The skies are already overcrowded with 7,500 jets, but the European consortium Airbus Industrie predicts more congestion since 12,200 new planes will be needed between now and 2008, when passenger loads are expected to be almost three times heavier.

Traffic jams might mean increased accident risks and delayed flights for passengers, but for the industry they are of extra

concern because of the threat they represent to expansion in the new aircraft market, which industry analysts say should be worth almost \$700 billion.

"The biggest problem we see is congestion," said David Jennings, Airbus marketing vice-president.

Air traffic control systems, whose limits are dictated by national boundaries rather than efficiency, will have to be radically altered to cope with the increase in flights, he said in an interview this week.

"The (present air traffic control) system will not be able to achieve traffic growth as predicted by Airbus and its competitors."

Airbus estimated that some 5,500 new aircraft will be needed by 2008 to replace ageing airliners, while the remainder of the 12,200 total will meet new demand.

Airbus's main U.S. competitor, Boeing, issued its own study in April predicting nearly 10,000 jets would be needed between now and 2005.

Presenting the study, Boeing Marketing Vice-President John Hayhurst warned of risks posed by higher fuel taxes, a shortage of pilots and mechanics and infrastructure problems.

"Congestion is a real problem, representing a greater risk than all the others put together," Hayhurst said.

HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

THE Daily Crossword by Martin Armstrong

ACROSS

- Boaters
- Shifting its capital
- Alphabetical
- Step — (silly)
- Metric measure
- ben
- Achilles
- Regarding
- ease
- Ancestral wisdom
- Urial in "Paradise Lost"
- Heretofore
- Speechifies
- Race-track
- OK, city
- abbr.
- Wallet items
- Booth
- Species great
- Madrid's month
- Sci. subj.
- Turn outward
- Tel.
- Shew team
- Kind of room
- Holbrook
- Wriggler
- More chi-chi
- Impede
- Hoffman film
- Cooper
- Scant
- "Hollywood"
- Kind of code
- Rede and
- Requisite
- Army food
- Exhausted
- point (type of stitch)

DOWN

- Biscay feeder
- Tube or man precursor
- Lament
- Dutch painter
- Seemingly
- Town
- Ego
- Small — (suspect)
- Procedure
- Latin dance
- Military order
- Choice
- building spot
- 13
- San Francisco hill
- Times of note
- Beverly of the
- Of sound
- Mountain nest
- "Turandot"
- 31
- Red word
- Choices
- Homily: abbr.
- O.T. book
- Pro
- Weather word
- Afterward
- Believers in: suff.
- 50-Zodiac sign
- Brain children
- Nasal sound
- Govt. welfare
- More fit
- Western show
- Pairs
- Handshake
- Shapen
- Govt. welfare
- Weir

Yesterday's Puzzle Solvers:

1. 100% correct
2. 95% correct
3. 90% correct
4. 85% correct
5. 80% correct
6. 75% correct
7. 70% correct
8. 65% correct
9. 60% correct
10. 55% correct
11. 50% correct
12. 45% correct
13. 40% correct
14. 35% correct
15. 30% correct
16. 25% correct
17. 20% correct
18. 15% correct
19. 10% correct
20. 5% correct
21. 0% correct

THE BETTER HALF By Harris



"I ordered it from the TV Shopping Channel. But I don't remember what it is or why I bought it"

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LUGBY
HEANN
DUBACT
NEURED

VERY COMMONLY CAUSES WORK STOPPAGES

Now arrange the circled letters from the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

Saturday's Jumble: KHAKI, FORGY, JOCKEY, TONARD. Answer: What kids never play in school — HOOKE.

July 1, 1999

Sports

Al Ramtha wins Shield championship

By Mubashir Fakhoury
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Youth Minister Ibrahim Obabshah Friday night crowned Al Ramtha Club as the champion of the soccer Shield championship after beating Al Hussein Club of Irbid 2-1 in the match held at Amman International stadium before almost 10,000 fans.

The victory was the second achievement in a row for Al Ramtha which earlier this month won Jordan's Cup Winners' Cup. Hussein Al Shanayneh opened the score for Al Ramtha in the 25th minute and Al Hussein Club equalised after six minutes through Aref Hussein in the first half.

The play in the second half of the match improved and became more aggressive from both teams. In the 71st minute Rabea Al Daoud of Al Ramtha, who scored a penalty kick earlier, missed the winning goal to give Al Ramtha the precious win.

Capriati survives test

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — Jennifer Capriati survived perhaps the toughest test of her young career Friday to advance to the fourth round at Wimbledon.

Capriati, the 14-year-old 12th seed from the United States who seems to set records for youthful triumph whenever she steps on a court, blew match points but rebounded from a second-set marathon to win the final six games and beat Robin White 7-5, 6-7, 6-3.

It left her 4-1 in three-set matches since she turned pro in March, but also with some don'ts mixed with homesickness.

"I was thinking that it was good that I was able to pull that out," Capriati said. "But I was upset, saying, 'why aren't you closing these matches out?'"

Capriati would next play top-ranked Steffi Graf, but the no. 1 seed had to play Claudia Kohde-Kilsch later in the day.

Argentina to boost offence

TRAGORIA, Italy (AP) — Coach Carlos Bilardo said Thursday he will move Diego Maradona upfield, where his talent thrives better, as the team goes for a more attacking strategy for its quarterfinal match against Yugoslavia.

In another move to boost its offence, Bilardo brought in Gabriel Calderon for midfielder Pedro Trogio, because the Paris St. Germain star plays better upfield. Maradona will now operate alongside stalwart striker Claudio Caniggia, rather than behind him during the earlier games here, Bilardo said following Thursday's training session.

The lineup now resembles the 1986 winning World Cup team more than in any of its earlier matches in Italy.

"Against Brazil, Maradona was in midfield, now we will find him more up front because he is fitter," said Bilardo.

"Yugoslavia has enough weak points in defence to suit our style of attack," said Bilardo.

Maradona is recovering well from his left-ankle injury and might even play without an injection in Saturday's game. He still felt some pain while shooting but he said it was slowly decreasing.

"I go into the game with more confidence," said Maradona.

But morale is improving among the Argentinians, especially after the 1-0 upset win over arch-rival Brazil.

"We are strong now," said Maradona. "And if we win on Saturday, we will even be stronger," he said, anticipating a potential semifinal clash with host nation Italy in Naples next Tuesday.

Italy plays Ireland in another quarterfinal Saturday.

Maradona sensed the World Cup still held potential for the squad. After the opening-day 1-0 loss to Cameroon "there were almost no journalists at our camp, now there are 200," he said as he was mobbed by several dozen camera teams.

Bilardo warned however that

Yugoslavia is no pushover and that its playmaker Dragan Stokovic will need special attention. Either Mauro Giusi or Julio Olarticoechea will cover him, with the latter holding an edge.

If Bilardo wants to shut out the Yugoslav star, his counterpart Ivica Osim wants to do the same with Maradona.

Yugoslav midfielder Refik Sabanadzovic is cut for the job. While Bilardo has been troubled to put a team together because of injuries to his players, everything slowly falls into place.

"Mentally we have always been strong, it was the physical condition which gave us problems," he said.

Defender Oscar Ruggeri still suffers from his groin injury and will get a final checkup Friday. But he is expected to lead the Argentine defence.

Jose Serrizuela will replace the suspended Pedro Monzon in defence.

Czechoslovaks set to cash in on World Cup success

CERNOBBIO, Italy (R) — While their countrymen struggle to make ends meet at home, Czechoslovakia's soccer team must be thinking there is no cash shortage at the World Cup finals.

Many Czechoslovak players, denied the right to leave for the West by their former communist rulers until they were 30, have been showered with lucrative offers during their stay in Italy.

While the country worries about its economy surviving the free market after this month's first democratic elections for nearly half a century, most of Jozef Venglos's side know their financial futures are secure as they head towards a quarter-final clash with West Germany at the weekend.

The players, who moved into a luxury hotel at scenic Lake Como Wednesday, know they are raising their prospective transfer fees with every performance.

Italian first division side Genoa have snapped up striker Tomas Skuhravy, the tournament's top scorer with five goals, on a three-year contract worth more than \$500,000 to the busy Sparta Prague forward.

Midfielders Michal Bilek and Ivan Hasek, defender Miroslav Kadlec and goalkeeper Jan Stejskal are negotiating moves to other Western clubs.

"I think it's a good thing that players move away," said Venglos who is expected himself to take up a coaching job abroad after the World Cup.

"They bring new experiences of life in and outside soccer to the national team. The team has a great opportunity to show their skills here. But the lads are all experienced and I don't think they will put personal ambitions before the good of the team," he added.

The Czechoslovaks are preparing for Sunday's match in Milan in the lakeside village of Cernobbio, exclusive hideaway of rich American, Swiss and Arab businessmen.

The average Czechoslovak factory worker's salary would not last long here. Guests pay 600,000 lire (\$500) a night at one of Europe's most glamorous hotels just down the road. A small bowl of simple pasta and bottle of mineral water at the local cafe costs some 15,000 lire (\$12.5).

"Como is probably the most expensive town in Italy," one local resident said. "It's not really for tourists, it's for well-off businessmen."

Czechoslovak soccer will not lose its stars without some compensation. Under new rules agreed last month, the soccer federation is taking its own cut from the transfer fees to promote the domestic game.

Belgians feel cheated

BOLOGNA (R) — Belgium feel as cheated as Brazil at bowing out of the World Cup in the second round.

"Now Belgium and Brazil — two teams which deserved to go further — are out of the World Cup. I have coached Belgium in 108 matches and this was one of the very best, Guy Thys has said.

Brazil went out when Argentine Claudio Caniggia scored 10 minutes from time.

Belgium's fate was even more cruel. England substitute David Platt torpedoed their hopes one minute before the end of extra time.

"Bad luck exists. We dominated three-quarters of the match and the team played magnificently. We hit the post twice. It just wasn't our day, but I am very proud of the side," Thys said.

"We can hold our heads up high," he noted.

"Only now am I starting to realise what happened," said veteran captain Jan Ceulemans, who hit the post early on.

"It's hard to accept. The English were just waiting for the penalty shoot-out," he said.

"It hurts," said defender Stephane Demol. "This just shows you don't really have to play well to win. If we play this match 10 times again, we would win it nine times," he said.

Thys said Enzo Scifo, criticised in the past few years for playing too selfishly and slowly, had been outstanding this time.

Scifo said: "I don't really care. I'm just too disappointed. We were the better team and it is hard to accept defeat. Losing like this, a goal in the last minute, is the worst thing that could have happened to us."

Thys said he was no longer interested in watching the rest of the tournament.

Thys bowed out as national coach last July after leading Belgium in 101 matches, but was asked to return following the shock dismissal of his successor Walter Meeuws.

Salsabil bids to win Irish Derby

DUBLIN (R) — Dual classic winner Salsabil bids Sunday to become the first filly to win the Irish Derby in 90 years — but she will have to be at her very best to beat Epsom Derby victor Quest For Fame.

Europe's richest classic has turned into the race of the year thanks to the sporting decision of Sheikh Hamdan Al Maktoum to run Salsabil, an impressive winner of the English 1,000 Guineas and then an effortless five-length scorer in the Oaks.

But first-season trainer Roger Charlton is determined to spoil the Salsabil party and land himself a unique record.

He won the French Derby with Sanglamore, the Epsom classic three days later with Quest For Fame and now tries for a hat-trick never achieved before by any trainer.

"I find the likelihood of winning all three almost impossible to believe," he confessed before the 600,000 punt (\$900,000) race at the Curragh.

"To win the Irish Derby would mean a hell of a lot to me even though I think I have already won my share of derbies this year," said the lanky 40-year-old who has had such a dream start to his new career.

The prize money for the race was boosted by 180,000 punts (\$270,000) with supplementary late entry fees paid for Salsabil, Quest For Fame and the Derby winner's stable companion Deploy.

Charlton insisted, "I wouldn't describe Deploy as just a pacer-maker. He is there on his own merits and has the form to take his chance."

It was confirmed Friday Deploy will be ridden in the 12-furlong (2.4 km) race by Walter Swinburn. As usual Pat Eddery will be on Quest For Fame with Willie Carson piloting Salsabil.

Sheikh Mohammad's Belmez could yet spoil the party for both classic winners. The colt beat Quest For Fame in the Chester Vase but was ruled out of the Epsom Derby because of injury.

Henry Cecil, trainer of last year's winner Old Vic, has got him back to fighting fitness and ready to spring a surprise.

The field has quality in depth because the dual classic winners will also be challenged by Blue Stag, runner-up in the Epsom Derby, and Kahel, who was fourth in that race behind Quest For Fame and is still a maiden.

The Irish have virtually no chance of scooping the big prize. Only three of the runners are Irish-trained — Alterezzi, Emperor Chang and Super Flame — and all are rank outsiders.

Entitled, who was third in 1987, has been the only Irish runner to get in the first three in the last four runnings of the Irish Derby.

Irish aim to confound critics one more time

ROME (AP) — Ireland, the mystery team of the World Cup, aims to confound critics once again by defeating Italy in the quarterfinals Saturday.

Ireland's meeting with Italy in Rome shares top-billing Saturday with defending champion Argentina's clash with Yugoslavia in Florence.

The other two quarterfinals are scheduled for Sunday, with Cameroon hoping to continue the Third World soccer revolution against England in Naples and West Germany facing Czechoslovakia in Milan.

The experts can't figure out how the fighting Irish have made it to the last eight in their first World Cup appearance.

The Irish team is a collection of hard-running over-achievers, many of whom were deemed not good enough to play for England or Scotland before opting to wear the green jersey.

Ireland's lack of creativity has been the subject of scorn and the team has made it to the last eight despite having yet to win a match.

The Irish drew all three of their first-round matches and then advanced to the last eight with a penalty shootout win over Romania.

Manager Jack Charlton has said he won't mind if Ireland wins the World Cup without winning a game. He was only half-joking.

Ireland's style is based almost entirely on out-running the opposition — a direct contrast to the silky skills of the Italians.

The Irish are now riding an

unbeaten run of 17 matches, no fewer than nine of which have been draws.

Six of the last seven matches they have played have been draws — most of them grinding affairs with technical skills at a minimum and effort at a maximum.

Charlton, an Englishman who won a World Cup winners' medal in 1966, is well aware of the limitations of his team. He plays to those limitations.

"Ours is basically a bustling game," he concedes cheerfully. "We prefer to play the game in the opponents' half of the field. Theo, if things go wrong, we have the other half to recover in."

There are no stars on the Irish team. Strikers John Aldridge and Tony Cascarino have failed to score a goal between them.

Yet the Irish have tremendous rapport with their supporters despite many team members having only tenuous links with the country they are representing with such pride.

Only four Irish-born players — Pat Bonner, Steve Staunton, Kevin Moran and Niall Quinn — were in the team that edged past Romania.

Others, including Scottish-born midfielder Ray Houghton and London-native Tony Cascarino, speak with accents far removed from those of their teammates.

Not one member of the Irish squad plays in his home country. Most are based in England and Scotland, some in the obscurity of the English second division.

Many qualify for Ireland merely because of their fortune in having Irish parents or grandparents. If not for that, many would never have had the chance to play international soccer at all.

On Saturday night at Rome's Olympic stadium they will face the might of Italy — Salvatore Schillaci, Roberto Baggio and all.

For all their humble origins, Charlton will make certain his players are not intimidated by the occasion.

Charlton, a rugged, uncompromising centre-half in his playing days, would like nothing more than for Ireland to go one better than England in the championship.

He once applied for the job as manager of England, but did not receive the courtesy of a reply.

Most of the quarter-finalists took life easy Thursday, although there still were some posers to be solved by Cameroon's Soviet coach Valery Nepomnyashchy.

Four players — Victor N'Dip, Jules Onana, Andre Kane Biyik and Emile Mbouh — all are suspended after receiving two yellow cards in the tournament.

"We've checked out who will replace them, but there still are some questions," Nepomnyashchy said.

Argentina, meanwhile, is certain to have its deadly duo of Diego Maradona and Claudio Caniggia intact for its meeting with Yugoslavia.

Maradona's injured left ankle is "a little better," according to coach Carlos Bilardo.

West German coach envies strength of Italian defence

ERBA, Italy (AP) — As chances increase for a West Germany - Italy World Cup final, German coach Franz Beckenbauer ponders the difficulties of breaking the Italian defence.

"It's almost impossible to break through the Italian defence, and it's good to know that we can face Italy only in the final," Beckenbauer said.

The two teams are in different quarterfinal groups and would meet in the July 8 final in Rome if both win their next two matches.

West Germany plays Czechoslovakia in the quarterfinals Sunday and Italy plays Ireland Saturday night.

"Italy thinks of defence first of all and it's a team extremely difficult to beat. Yet all teams can be beaten. We hope this can happen when we play Italy. But we will need to have the Gods on our side," Beckenbauer said.

A final between Italy and West Germany would be a replay of the 1982 championship match in Spain, which Italy won 3-1.

Beckenbauer said that Salvatore "Toto" Schillaci, the rising star-striker of the Italian team, was a player "of world class, who can score decisive goals at the right moment."

Schillaci, who played in the Italian second division until two years ago, has tallied three decisive goals for Italy.

Beckenbauer noted that West Germany's offence has been impressive, with 12 goals in four matches, while defence was not as good as Italy.

West Germany allowed four goals, or one in each World Cup match. Italy is the only World Cup team that has not conceded a goal.

Beckenbauer said he considered Italy a certain winner against Ireland in Saturday's quarterfinal.

Italy will be the toughest of teams to face in the World Cup, far, were lucky winners against Romania and are favourites to win the tournament.

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Beckenbauer said he considered Italy a certain winner against Ireland in Saturday's quarterfinal.

"We will have to be very patient against the Czechoslovaks. You have seen what has happened to Brazil, which pressed from the very beginning for an early goal. Argentina was patient and won," Beckenbauer said.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSHCH
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MAKING WRONG APPEAR RIGHT

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 8 3
♥ Q 7 6 3
♦ K J
♣ 10 7 5 2

EAST
♠ K 7
♥ A 6 5 2
♦ K 4 2
♣ 7 4

SOUTH
♠ A Q J 10 4
♥ A 5
♦ A Q 10 5 2
♣ 8

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

They must have played bridge in ancient Greece. What else could have prompted Terence to pen: "There is a demand for men who can make wrong appear right."

The bidding requires some explanation. North's no trump response was forcing, so South's diamond rebid could have been made on a three-card suit. The rest of the auction was natural.

Sitting West was our old friend Lee Hazen of New York. He led the

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Lithuanian leader offers Soviets 100-day freeze on independence

VILNIUS, Soviet Union (Agencies) — Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis proposed Friday a 100-day freeze on the republic's independence declaration — from the start of any future negotiations with the Kremlin.

In a move that seemed likely to break four months of deadlock with Moscow, Landsbergis told parliament the 100 days would begin once negotiations got under way.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has insisted that Lithuania suspend its unilateral declaration before talks could begin.

Landsbergis said his draft proposal would also suspend all legal action following from the March 11 declaration.

Landsbergis had long opposed any suspension of the declaration of independence but said he had changed his mind after talks with Gorbachev in Moscow this week.

Asked why he had changed his mind, he said: "My reason is this. If adopted, it would not be an

immediate moratorium but it would be a promise of a moratorium under certain conditions.

"We are making a step toward agreement. The next step should come from the Soviet side."

The Landsbergis proposal would allow the parliament to curtail or prolong the moratorium at any time.

Moscow slapped an economic blockade on Lithuania in an effort to force it to back down on its declaration, undermining the economy and putting more than 40,000 people out of work.

But signs of compromise had begun to surface in recent days, with a pair of sudden meetings between Lithuanian leaders and Gorbachev and a conciliatory telephone call by the Soviet lead-

er to Lithuanian Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene.

Landsbergis's proposal appeared to set the stage for a breakthrough in the parliament, deadlocked after two days.

Liberal deputy Algimantas Cekuolis said Landsbergis had made a "grand gesture" to reassure Moscow and he predicted the proposal would pass. "I think it will be passed. Maybe not today, perhaps after discussion in commissions at the weekend."

As the legislature entered the parliament Friday morning for the second day of debate on the compromise, legislators ran a gauntlet of demonstrators protesting the proposed compromise.

"A moratorium is the death of independence," read one poster.

Lithuanian legislators say their constituents are pressing them to remain firm on independence, but their president and prime minister say a compromise with Moscow is necessary.

Legislators in the Baltic republic debating the compromise Thursday had questioned whether Gorbachev has the stability and credibility to abide by its terms.

Gorbachev might be challenged as party leader at the national party congress scheduled to begin Monday in Moscow. He is almost certain to be criticised by both traditionalists and reform-minded Communists, who alternatively oppose his reforms or believe they are far too slow.

The Soviet Communist Party leadership was meeting Friday to make final preparations for the national party congress.

Landsbergis and Prunskiene were expected to fly to Tallinn, Estonia, later Friday for the opening of an Estonian song festival.

They were expected to meet the leaders of both Estonia and Latvia to discuss the status of their talks with the Kremlin.

14 bodies of policemen found in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (R) — Fourteen decomposed bodies of Sri Lankan policemen abducted and shot dead by Tamil separatists have been found in a pit, security sources said Friday.

They said the bodies were found in a major army base in the north continued after the rebels resumed attacks on Thursday night.

The sources said the fire-power of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), who launched a series of attacks on security forces establishments on June 11, appeared to be dwindling.

The Tigers, fighting to set up an independent state for the minority Tamil community, attacked more than 10 army camps and overran 30 police stations in the first wave of assaults, using machine guns, mortar bombs and rocket-propelled grenades.

They abducted 800 policemen and seized guns and ammunition from the police stations, the sources say.

Military sources said the bodies found Thursday were those of policemen abducted from Upavelli and Madathadi police stations in the eastern Trincomalee district on June 13.

The men had been shot in the head and buried in a pit at a village called Alles Garden near the city of Trincomalee.

The sources said the fate of the other abducted policemen was not known, but they are also presumed to have been shot dead.

The Tigers, holed up in bunkers around a major army base in Jaffna town, came under attack again from midnight Thursday.

The camp, situated in a fort built 350 years ago by Dutch colonists, has been under siege for the past 18 days.

The sources said 225 soldiers and policemen pinned down inside the fort, some weak and wounded, returned the fire.

They said attempts to evacuate 16 wounded security men in the fort had been prevented by rebel firing. Air force helicopters had succeeded in dropping some food parcels into the fort in the past three days amid the rebel fire.

The air force carried out a series of bombing raids earlier this week on Tiger positions in buildings around the fort from which they directed attacks on the base.

U.S., Soviet historians agree cold war is over

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet officials are promoting legislation to declassify Stalin-era documents to allow historians to study the origins of the cold war, visiting U.S. scholars said Thursday.

The scholars were attending the first of two seminars of U.S. and Soviet historians examining why the United States and the Soviet Union embarked on 45 years of hostility following World War II.

Both the Soviet and American historians agreed that the cold war was over, or at least obsolete, the U.S. historians said at a news briefing.

The U.S. participants included historian Arthur Schlesinger; Richard Pipes, a senior national security adviser to former U.S. President Ronald Reagan; and Walt Rostow, an economist.

Schlesinger said that Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze told the visiting Americans at a meeting Thursday that legislation to declassify post-war documents has been introduced in the Supreme Soviet legislature and has the full support of the Soviet leadership.

"We were assured that the law will go through," Schlesinger said. "We were told they will be declassified in the not-to-distant future."

Alexander Chabaryan, a member of the Soviet Institute of World History, agreed that there was a problem in releasing documents.

"The Soviet side is lagging behind in the sense of using archival documents," he said. But, he said, "the seminar has shown that we have made progress and we were able to introduce several new documents for discussion."

Rostow warned that just getting access to post-war documents was not enough to fully understand the cold war. "Don't kid yourself that all history is in documents," he said. "We are not naive enough to believe that if you collect enough documents, you will know everything."

Pipes said one of the Soviet historians told him that he gained access to the minutes of a meeting chaired by Stalin. "There was nothing in it, it was blank," he quoted the Soviet scholar as saying.

Following three days of talks, both sides agreed that the cold war was basically over.

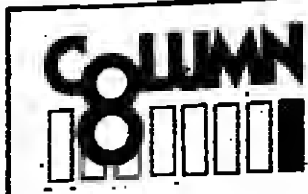
"The cold war, in the form that we knew and loved for 45 years, is finished," Schlesinger said. But, he said, there were residual effects. "Some wheels are still spinning."

Pipes said one of the causes of the cold war was the "demonstration" of the two countries. "They thought capitalism was a demon, we thought communism was a demon. We demonised each other."

The historians said they discussed whether the cold war could have been avoided and what role national leaders, such as Stalin and U.S. President Harry Truman, played in creating superpower hostility.

The seminar symbolises movement from confrontation to cooperation, said Allen Weinstein, a member of the U.S. Institute of Peace, a co-sponsor of the conference along with the Soviet Research Coordination Centre.

The second seminar was scheduled to be held in Washington at the end of July.



Charles breaks arm in polo match

CIRENCESTER, England (AP) — Prince Charles broke his arm Thursday when he fell from his horse at a polo match, police said.

The 41-year-old prince underwent a 45-minute operation under general anaesthetic to set two breaks above the elbow of his right arm, his spokesman Dickie Arbiter said.

Charles was spending the night in the hospital. The accident occurred during a match at Cirencester Park, Gloucestershire, 10 kilometres from Highgrove, the country home of Charles and his wife, Diana, 110 kilometres west of London.

The princess was in London and decided to carry out a private engagement at the opera Thursday evening, but said she was leaving immediately afterward for Gloucestershire.

Charles' mother, Queen Elizabeth II, was informed in Canada where she is visiting. Charles was playing for his team, Windsor Park, when he fell from his horse 30 minutes into play.

"The prince was in the process of making a shot when he lost his balance," said Arbiter.

New Zealand woman becomes bishop

WELLINGTON (R) — Penny Jamieson became the world's first Anglican woman diocesan bishop Friday in a ceremony boycotted by a Maori prelate.

Whakahuhi Vercoe, Anglican bishop of Aotearoa, said New Zealand's native Maori people were not culturally ready for a woman bishop.

Jamieson became bishop of Dunedin, the country's southernmost diocese.

"The Maori stance at the moment is that women have a leading role in every facet and because the Pakeha (European) institution elects a Pakeha woman to an office doesn't mean it's quite all right for Maoris to follow in tow," Vercoe said.

Maori women are prohibited from speaking at some Maori meetings (Maori meeting places) and their rights at formal occasions have traditionally been restricted.

Man climbs world's longest staircase

TORONTO (R) — Ashrita Furman climbed the world's longest staircase on a pogo stick Tuesday.

The health food store manager hopped up 1,760 stairs of the world's tallest free-standing structure, Toronto's CN Tower, in less than four hours.

Furman, 35, wants an entry in the Guinness Book of World Records as the man with the most world records. He has walked over 48 kilometres with a full bottle of milk on his head, climbed a third of Japan's Mount Fuji with a pogo stick and pogo-sticked under water in Brazil's Amazon River.

"I want to be the first to pogo stick on the moon," he said.

Furman now plans to regain his 1987 yodelling record by yodelling for 36 hours in a hot air balloon over Ottawa, Ontario.

A spokeswoman for the Guinness Book of World Records said Furman must fill out an application before Guinness considers the pogo climb official.

Music festival opens in Japan

SAPPORO, Japan (AP) — A fanfare by British brass and the crash of Korean cymbals has opened the Pacific Music Festival, symbolising sponsors' hopes of creating an annual bridge between Eastern and Western musical traditions.

Nearly 700 musicians from 23 countries, including conductors Leonard Bernstein and Michael Tilson Thomas, will rehearse and study together in Sapporo and perform about 50 concerts in Sapporo, Tokyo and Yokohama during the three-week festival, ending July 14.

It is the first international music instruction and performance festival ever held in Japan, organisers said.

Many concerts will feature the London Symphony Orchestra, where Bernstein serves as president and Thomas as principal conductor.

The London Symphony also will play a series of 10 concerts in Tokyo, Nagoya, Kyoto and Osaka July 10-22.

Other concerts will feature the Japan Philharmonic Orchestra, the Sapporo Symphony Orchestra, and soloists such as Japanese violinist Midori Goto, American baritone Thomas Hampson, Soviet baritone Dmitri Hvorostovsky and Japanese soprano Shinobu Sato.

Also performing will be the Pacific Music Festival Orchestra, 125 young musicians invited from 23 Pacific rim countries.

14 killed, 33 injured in Medellin blast

MEDELLIN, Colombia (AP) — Fourteen people have been killed, in a car bomb blast which rocked the centre of Colombia's drug capital of Medellin as the city's new police chief was being sworn in.

Thirty-three people were also injured in the powerful explosion near a police station Thursday morning in the latest burst of violence sweeping Medellin, home to the world's most powerful cocaine cartel.

The violence has claimed the lives of close to 3,000 civilians and more than 145 policemen this year.

Medellin's new police chief, Colonel Jorge Ferrero Echeverry, was being sworn in beside the police station as the car

bomb went off. Victims killed included a radio journalist and her three children.

The car bombing was the second this month and follows one of the bloodiest weekends in the city's history. More than 60 people were gunned down, many by youths from poor neighbourhoods hired by drug traffickers as paid assassins.

Medellin Mayor Omar Florez Velez blames much of the violence not only on drug traffickers but on the grinding poverty of the barrios.

Left without jobs they can change their destiny, many youths become hired killers and hold up as latter day folk heroes

78 U.S. generals, admirals to retire

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defence Secretary Dick Cheney has decided there will be fewer stars in the U.S. military firmament and will cut 78 generals and admirals over the next four years, it was announced Thursday.

The move is part of an effort to cut back the military, both to save money and to adjust to lessened East-West tensions.

Defence Department spokesman Pete Williams said.

Currently, there are 1,073 such positions in the U.S. military — 407 generals in the army, 338 in the air force, 70 in the Marine corps and 258 flag officers in the navy.

The cut will bring the new level to 995 such slots by 1995.

The reduction amounts to about a 7 per cent cut in the number of general and flag officer positions, a far cry from the much larger cuts in store for ordinary soldiers.

Army officials have predicted they may eliminate one fourth of their rank-and-file soldiers over the next five years.

At the end of April, there were 2 million men and women on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the highest ranking U.S. professional soldier, said Cheney's cuts have the support of the chiefs of the army, navy, air force and Marine corps.

"The joint chiefs and I believe this plan reflects an appropriate balance between continuing requirements and changing force structure," Powell said.

"In light of anticipated force structure changes, we recognise the necessity for general and flag officer requirements and inventory to drop below current levels."

Williams said Cheney and Powell wanted to emphasise that it was appropriate to begin force level reductions "at the top" and among all the services.

The cut means the elimination of 33 generals from the army, 27 from the air force and three from the Marine corps.

Fifteen admirals will be eliminated from the navy.

The spokesman said an attempt would be made to reduce the numbers through retirement and attrition, but additional steps — such as forcing some generals to leave their jobs — may have to be taken.

Funeral procession of Filipino rebel attacked; peace corps begin pullout

MANILA (R) — Communist rebels Friday vowed to avenge the military attack on the funeral of a fallen comrade.

Also Friday, American Peace Corps staff began leaving the country because U.S. officials fear the rebels have targeted them for kidnappings or assassinations.

On Friday, charges were filed against 21 people arrested Thursday after troops wearing masks and civilian clothes fired on the funeral procession for Benjamin Tabuena, 42, a member of a rebel assassination squad killed by police last week.

Two mourners, including a pallbearer, were killed.

In a statement Friday, the Alex Boncayao Brigade, the Manila branch of the rebel New People's

Army, condemned the military for "utter disregard of the traditional respect the Filipinos accord their dead."

"We want those responsible that any escalation of violence will be dealt with accordingly," the statement said.

"The revolutionary justice the people demand will not go unheeded."

On Friday, police charged the 21 with inciting to sedition. Three of them were identified as Alex Boncayao Brigade members and would face additional charges, police said.

"They are openly displaying their flag and openly displaying their revolutionary intent which is against the law," said Brig. Gen. Mariano Filart, chief of the capital command.

"This will stop other plans for further assassinations."

Police Lt. Col. George Alino said the shooting erupted when mourners tried to throw grenades at police.

But news photographers and other witnesses said they saw no grenades.

The witnesses said the masked gunmen were hiding behind gravestones as the marchers approached the main gate of the city's north cemetery carrying communist banners, placards and Tabuena's coffin.

About five gunmen then emerged, fired warnings shots and opened fire on two mourners who tried to flee. Mourners dropped Tabuena's casket, which flew open.

Tabuena was later buried by cemetery employees on orders from the military.

Burma opposition seeks peaceful path to power

BANGKOK (R) — Burma's opposition, still shunned by the army government, cut off from its detained leaders, Friday held its largest meeting since the polls to search for a peaceful path to power.

But diplomats said the army, Burma's tough and sometimes brutal ruler since it crushed a nationwide uprising two years ago, was showing little sign of making concessions.

Hundreds of opposition supporters have been tried since the May 27 election, the diplomats said.

Opposition spokesman Kyi Maung said Friday his National League for Democracy (NLD), which won more than 80 per cent of the seats contested, had received no response to its week-old call for talks.

He said the party was still barred from contact with Aung San Suu Kyi, the charismatic NLD secretary who has been held under house arrest since July 20 last year.

"We are completely cut off from her," Kyi Maung told Reuters by telephone from his Rangoon home.

Kyi Maung, who is also the party's acting chairman, said the NLD's 50-member Central Committee was meeting to discuss strategy after its surprise election victory.

He said that in any talks with the army the party planned to bring up the thorny issue of political prisoners and try to persuade the military to hand over power peacefully.

"They are in the same package. When we start talking about all these there are no priorities. It's all tantamount to us," he said.

Rangoon-based diplomats contacted by telephone said that since the election the army had cracked down on thousands of political prisoners languishing in jails across the country.

One report said 200 opposition sympathisers, held without trial in Rangoon's Insein Jail, had been sentenced and transferred to prisons upcountry.

Others have been put in solitary confinement after trying to get news of the election.

Diplomats said both sides were awaiting the publication of the last result from the 485 constituencies contested.

The official election commission, which earlier promised all results within three weeks of the election, has blamed the delay on poor weather and communications.

"Right now the onus is on the SLORC (State Law and Order Restoration Council) to respond to the NLD. But if they choose not to make a move, there may well be pressure on the opposition to take its gloves off," one diplomat said.

The army last week promised a dialogue with the election winners but has given no timetable or outline for a transfer of power.

Officials have given sometimes contradictory statements on whether the army will set conditions on transferring power.

Kyi Maung, the quietly spoken former colonel and reluctant mainstay of the party since last year's detention of Aung San Suu Kyi and Chairman U Nu, said the army was not using delaying tactics.

But he added that he hoped for a direct response to his party's request for talks.

"We are expecting some form of reply to that," he said.

Hubble's troubles caused by mirrors

WASHINGTON (AP) — An error in the grinding and polishing of the main mirrors aboard the Hubble space telescope has been pinpointed as the cause of a focus flaw that crippled the \$1.5 billion orbiting observatory.

An official of Hughes Danbury Optical Co., which manufactured the mirrors, said Thursday night that experiments with signals from the Hubble have confirmed that a mistake was made in the tedious three-year process of making the primary and secondary Hubble mirrors.

"With fairly high certainty, we have concluded that... the shape of one of the mirrors is not correct," said Terence Facey, a Hughes Danbury engineer.

He said it was not known which mirror is flawed, but that may be discovered by searching the Connecticut company's records of tests conducted during the months of grinding and polishing required to turn spherical glass blanks into the telescope mirrors.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has said the telescope cost \$1.5 billion, plus \$600 million for operations and maintenance.

Hughes Danbury Optical, then a division of Perkin-Elmer, built the Hubble telescope assembly under a \$450 million contract.

The mirrors were tested to some extent before the telescope was launched. But Hubble deputy project manager Jean Olivier said the mirrors were never tested as a combination because that would have cost "hundreds of millions of dollars."

Japanese prince weds in sombre ceremony

TOKYO (R) — No bells pealed, no one threw rice, no one laughed or even cried as Japan's Prince Aya, Emperor Akihito's younger son, married his commoner sweetheart, Kiko Kawashima, Friday in a sombre, 10-minute wedding rite.

The only sound within the high walls of Tokyo's austere imperial palace was that of birds singing as the pair exchanged vows according to the rites of Shinto, Japan's 2,000-year-old indigenous religion.

Despite the starkness of the formal ceremonies, the marriage has raised hopes here that a new era of openness, accessibility and worldliness is dawning within the secretive, tradition-bound Japanese court.

Aya, 24, broke tradition by marrying college girlfriend Kiko, 23, instead of another royal, and by tying the knot before his elder brother, Crown Prince Naruhito, wed.

For a Japanese prince, Aya is unconventional. Sporting longish

hair and a droopy moustache, he is sometimes seen wearing a gold chain around his neck or a bracelet.

His engagement ring from Kiko, replicas of which have been selling like hot cakes as unofficial wedding souvenirs, is in the form of two entwined catfish, the species the zoologist prince has made his life work.

Now that he is married, Aya will have to trade in his bright yellow Volkswagen "beetle" for a more serious state car. But, spared the weight of responsibility his elder brother bears as heir to the Chrysanthemum Throne, he is expected to keep as far as possible to his quirky, freewheeling lifestyle.

Kiko, daughter of a professor and herself a graduate student in psychology, is well-travelled and a linguist. Educated in Philadelphia and Vienna, where her family lived before she entered high school, she speaks English, German and Chinese.

For her wedding, she swapped

her usually chic, modern look for thousand-year-old fashions, donning the elaborate, 12-layered silk kimono of ladies of the court.

After pledging "eternal love before the goddess of the sun," Aya and his bride sealed their vows in the Shinto ceremony by sipping sake (rice wine) from sacred nuptial cups. That made the marriage official.

Then Aya and Kiko, newly raised to the rank of princess, visited the emperor and empress, who were barred from the wedding ceremony by court protocol, watching it instead on television.

The four celebrated their family ties by exchanging drinks of a liquor made from stewed black beans and sake, and then by symbolically touching, but not eating, some rice and other traditional foods with their chopsticks.

Once settled into his new life, Aya can expect to be kept busy heading various organisations, including the Japan chapter of the World Wildlife Fund for Nature.

Kiko has said she would like to continue her graduate studies in social psychology, although whether she will be allowed to have a career is yet unknown.

The couple's financial future is in any case assured. They will receive an annual stipend of 40,650,000 yen (\$270,000) from the imperial household budget, allocated from public funds.

"I think this will blow a fresh breeze through the imperial palace," Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu told reporters after attending the palace ceremonies.

Kaifu and Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, still looking weary after marathon trade talks with U.S. negotiators that concluded late Thursday, led a list of wedding guests, including the only foreign guest, Thai Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn.

Crown Prince Naruhito, still a bachelor at 30, smiled serenely as he led the imperial contingent to their seats for the wedding. He has repeatedly said that he will take his time in choosing a bride.